The Garden of India



Nishat Bagh Mysore

GIVE yourself a new holiday experience this year and visit MYSORE STATE. You will find an unique land in a setting of magnificent scenery Rail or road travel in Mysore is comfortable with modern hotels and rest bungalows at the principal centres

MYSORE

Full travel information from
The Principal Information Officer Government of Mysore
BANGALORE





tea

the way you drink it

You drink it leisurely in bed still half-dreaming, nd you re king or god with the d y ahead f you brig nd ich wi h promise.

You drink it over you morning paper almos thinkl gly bu deep d wn you know th thi is good sa isfying beginning othe day

You drink i h rriedly t breakfast before rushing ff t w k d it punches power int yo you rmed you re ready t begin.

You drink i t wo nd f igu drops ff lik look.

You drink i whe you com h n and the evening ak on gl tter d spa kle

You dri k i l no with f i nd It is always satisfying, lway heering, l ys freshing

Issued by the Ce tral T Bo d



SINCE INDEPENDENCE



August 15 1947
to
August 15 1951



THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

OCTOBER
1 9 5 1

Print d at th Unit d Press Old S retari t Delhi

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

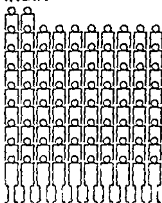
PARTITION AND AFTEP

FOUR years have passed since independence and the installation of the National Government In this period the Government has endeavoured to lay the foundations of a stable prosperous and progressive democracy in this country It was unfortunately faced with enormous difficulties some inherent in the situation and some unforeseen India s Independence Day when it came after centuries of foreign rule found the country backward in almost every respect Agriculture the backbone of the country s economy was in a sorry plight Actual cultivators were poor beyond description Centuries of malnutrition and disease had undermined their health A major portion of what they extracted from the soil was taken by the non cultivating interests Agricultural methods were old fashioned unscientific and unproductive Land laws were feudal and reactionary The leaders of the new Government were pledged to the abolition of *Zamindari* which is the most important factor in the backwardness of agriculture and in fact they have succeeded in legislating for its abolition in several States

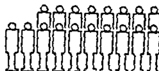
Partition (see maps I and II) worsened the food position which was already precarious at the outbreak of World War II As a result against 82 per cent of the

EFFECTS OF PARTITION

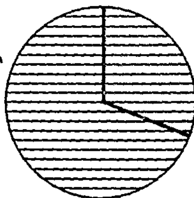
POPULATION



More people



IRRIGATED LAND



less land

FOOD CROPS

INDIA | **PAKISTAN**

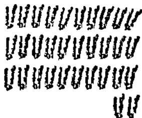
Wheat





R





pre partition population of the country which remained in India only 69 per cent of the irrigated area 65 per cent of the wheat and 68 per cent of the rice area fell to India s share In consequence food shortage even at its present low subsistence level amounted to over four million tons The state of the health and education of the people was no better The people were too poor already and the war had caused greater deterioration in their general economic condition Essential commodities were in short supply prices rose which led to controls and inflation In spite of controls however scarce commodities continued to go into the black market producing greater scarcity and a still further rise in prices It was argued that the controls alleged to be the cause of so much corruption should be lifted Gandhiji himself was a strong advocate of their abolition But when the controls were actually lifted the Government was faced with the problem of soaring prices and had to reimpose the controls It was realized that the remedy lay in greater production and in the acceleration of industrial activity in the country

But handicaps and problems existed in the industrial sphere also The jute and cotton producing areas had gone mostly to Pakistan while the manufacturing areas remained in India putting the entire trade and industry out of gear To these were added troubles fomented by subversive elements particularly in the industrial sphere

But the most important problem on the morrow of independence arose out of the activities of the communalists The communal disturbances in the Punjab in July August 1947 drove away from Pakistan about five million men women and children who crossed over to India The urgent task of feeding housing and rehabilitating this large number of uprooted people

naturally monopolized the attention and energy of the Government from the very outset of its career The nation s resources which might otherwise have been used for fighting poverty had to be diverted for a long time to the relief and rehabilitation of millions of displaced persons

Add to all this the raid in Kashmir made by Pakistan All these abnormal conditions were exploited by subversive elements especially the communists who started on a mad career of violence and tried to bring about chaos and anarchy in certain parts of the country

The new Government has tried to meet these difficulties as best it could and the result of its efforts is already known In some cases its efforts have been crowned with great success such as the integration of what were formerly known as Indian States In others the results have not been spectacular Never theless by and large if one takes account of the difficulties the balance sheet is not disappointing

CHAPTER II

THE CONSTITUTION

ONE of the first tasks to which the leaders addressed themselves was to enshrine in a Constitution the principles and ideals which had inspired the nation in its struggle for freedom and were now to guide the steps of the new State A Constituent Assembly had been convened in 1946 In August 1947 this Assembly became a sovereign body and assumed full powers as the Parliament of India By the end of 1949 it completed its deliberations and produced an agreed Constitution and the Republic of India was inaugurated with great *eclat* on January 26 1950

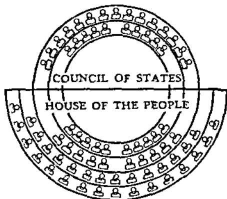
The amount of labour and thought which had gone into the framing of the Constitution can be judged from the comprehensiveness of the document which comprises 395 articles and eight schedules and took two years eleven months and eighteen days to complete In its final form it envisages a secular state for India and a single common citizenship irrespective of religion caste colour creed and sex It provides for the freedom of speech and expression the right to assemble peacefully and without arms the right to form associations or unions move freely throughout the territory of India reside and settle in any part of it practise any profession or carry on any calling trade or business These rights are subject to restric

PARLIAMENT

COUNCIL OF STATES

MAXIMUM 250 MEMBERS OF THESE 12 ARE NOMINATED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE REST ARE ELECTED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURES

THE VICE PRESIDENT IS EX OFFICIO CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATES





HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

500 m mb rs l t d by dult f n hi in g n l l t h ld y fi y rs E h m mb p nt 500 000 t 750 000 p pl

Th H us f th P pl v t n ll d m d f g nt d ha p m th ty i fina l m tt rs

B th th H f P l m nt mu t m t t l t twi y

P l m t t l w on any m tt in th U n nd rr t l t

P l m nt n t law m tt rs in th Stat l t p id d it is d l d t be es y in th nat n l l t est by lut f th C u i f St t d pt d by tw thi d m j t

P l m nt h p w t l gi fat y m tt i th St t l t if n m g v d l d by th P d t

ELECTION OF



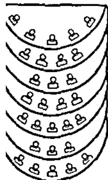
PRESIDENT

I S p me H ad f Stat
ti g n d i of th
C ll f Mi ist rs
H lds ffi f 5 y ars a d
i el gible f -el tion
All uti a th rity of
th Uni n i t d in him
I th S pr m C mm nder
f the D f nc F
Appoi t Gov rn rs Diplo
m ts Judg f the Su
p m nd High C urts
Ch irm n d m mbers of
th UPSC t
C n pr m lg t ordi e
d ing ess f p li ment
D l me g cy
d by w r i t l
di tu b c s d fi ci l
i tabil ty

FLECT

FLECT

ELECTED MEMBERS OF STATE LEGISLATURES

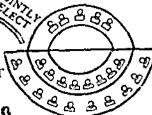


ELECTED MEMBERS OF UNION PARLIAMENT

JOINTLY ELECT



VICE PRESIDENT





ELECT

ELECT

PEOPLE

tion only in the interests of public order decency morality and the security of the State The right to religious freedom has been guaranteed by the autonomy granted to every religious denomination to manage its religious affairs and to own acquire or administer property for religious or charitable purposes This right like the other fundamental rights namely right to equality right to freedom cultural and educational rights right to property and right to constitutional remedies is justiciable All laws which are inconsistent with them or curtail or take away from them will be null and void

The Constitution has abolished untouchability and its practice in any form is unlawful and punishable by law The rights and interests of the minorities have been effectively safeguarded The freedom of every minority to practise its own religion and preserve its own culture language and script has been guaranteed The right of constitutional remedy means that every citizen has the right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of his fundamental rights The Supreme Court is endowed with general powers to safeguard these rights as well as the specific power to propose particular remedies such as *habeas corpus* or *mandamus* etc The inclusion of these writs in the Constitution guarantees the freedom of the individual

The chapter dealing with the Directive Principles of State policy is a unique feature of the Indian Constitution These principles are in the nature of codes of constitutional propriety and enjoin future legislatures and executives to en ure for the people adequate means of livelihood equal pay for equal work employment free and compulsory education

a large number of other desirable social political and economic measures

The Indian Constitution is a federal structure with clearly defined spheres of authority of the Union and the constituent units The Union comprises twenty seven States consisting of nine Part A States eight Part B States and ten Part C States The former Governors Provinces constitute the Part A States while the State Unions and the States of Hyderabad Mysore and Jammu and Kashmir form the Part B States The Part C States include three former centrally administered areas and some princely States

The Part A and Part B States enjoy responsible government under the Constitution Representative governments have now been introduced in six of the Part C States by a recent Act of Parliament

There is an independent judiciary to interpret the Constitution and resolve disputes arising between the Centre and the States The Constitution vests residuary authority in the Centre and arms it with adequate powers to direct all important activities according to a uniformly executed plan Unity in administration is sought by means of a single judiciary unity in basic law common all India services and a common language

By granting adult franchise the Constitution has created an electorate which is estimated to be one twelfth of the worlds population It enables the people to elect members of State legislatures and the Union Parliament directly The President of the Republic is elected by an electoral college consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly of the States At the head

of the Republic is the President and a Council of Ministers led by the Prime Minister aids and advises the President in the exercise of his functions

The first elections under this Constitution are due to be held in the coming winter Nearly 175 million people will go to the polls to elect about 4 000 legislators

CHAPTER III

INTEGRATION OF STATES

On the eve of independence two problems stood out above all others namely the communal differences and the anachronistic princely order If partition could be said to have partly solved the first problem the second still awaited solution Free India could not calmly contemplate its new map dotted with no fewer than 550 territorial units under autocratic rule and at different stages of social economic and educational development British power in India looked upon the Indian States as a second line of defence against the nationalist aspirations of the people indeed it did everything to make the rulers of these territories unsympathetic even hostile to the idea of Indian independence When the British left India they declared that paramountcy had lapsed leaving un determined the question of the independence of the States and their accession to the Indian Union or Pakistan It was feared that the situation might be exploited by reactionaries

However the new Government acted promptly On July 5 1947 it constituted a separate States Department with the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at its head In a statement issued at the time the Iron Man of India described the problem and its solution in these words

This country with its institutions is the proud her tage of the people who inhabit it It is an acc dent that some live in the States and some live in Br t sh Ind a But all alike partake of its culture and character We are all knit together by bonds of blood and feeling no less than of self interest None can egregat us into segments no mpassable barriers can be set up between us I suggest that it is there fore better for us to make laws s tting together as friends than to make treaties as al ens I invite my friends the Rulers of States and the people to the Counc ls of the Const tuent Assembly in this spirit of friendliness and co operation in a joint endeavour nsp red by common allegiance to our motherland for the common good of us all

While extending his hand of co operation to the princes the Sardar was careful to point out the consequences of their failure to accept it He said

I hope the Ind an States will bear n m nd that the alternative to co operation in the general interest is anarchy and chaos wh ch w ll ove whelm great and small n a common ru n if we are unable to act together in the minimum of common tasks

It must be said to the eternal credit of the princes that whatever their role under the British they rose to the occasion in a spirit of patriotism which drew approbation from the Sardar and all lovers of democracy They did not take a narrow legalistic view of their time worn treaties with the British and their antiquated prerogatives and powers Nor was there any attempt to defy the new Government of India and bring about chaos and anarchy which they could so easily have done particularly when the Government was preoccupied with problems created by disturbances in the Punjab and the raid on Kashmir Indeed it was the co operation between the princes their people and the new Government of India which for the first brought sovereignty to the people under d

conditions That all this was done in barely two years enhances the value of the achievement

In January 1948 the Sardar could tell the country that all States contiguous to Indian territory had acceded except Hyderabad and Junagadh Before the end of the year those two States had also joined the Indian Union

The story of Hyderabad s accession to India is well known For some time the Razakars a band of fanatics had been fomenting communal hatred which resulted in widespread acts of lawlessne s in the State of Hyderabad and what was more serious from the *Indian point of view law and order was threatened* in the neighbouring territories of India These fanatics under the leadership of the notorious Kasim Razvi usurped so much power that they dared to defy and dictate to the Nizam and his advisers In this pro vocative situation the Indian Government showed unsurpassed forbearance in spite of popular demand f r action However it soon became clear that if the Razakars were still left to their mischief it would touch off an orgy of plunder a d massacre like that in the Punjab the previous year and not only Hyderabad but the whole of India would be plunged into chaos and anarchy It was clearly the duty of the Indian Government to prevent such a catastrophe Therefore it decided to act

The action was swift and bold In five days Hyderabad was freed from the clutches of the Razakars and the Nizam was restored to liberty of action He decided to accede to India

Once all the States had rallied under the national flag the Ministry of States set to working out the unification of the diverse units territorially politically

administratively and economically under a common system of law and government It would have been unwise and unpractical to preserve the 550 odd States as distinct entities Indeed most of the States had neither the resources nor the machinery for separate democratic organization Hence the Sardar declared that where a State could not introduce a modern system of government both democratization and integration were clearly and unmistakably indicated Integration or the consolidation of the States into sizable units was therefore the first task of the Government It took three forms

(1) merger of some States into adjoining provinces
(2) grouping of other States into Unions of States and
(3) taking over a few States to be administered centrally

Three States which were already of considerable size were left out of this scheme They were Hyderabad Jammu and Kashmir and Mysore Their boundaries were kept intact In the case of others the process of integration led to the disappearance of inter state boundaries and customs barriers if any and to the levelling up of administration to the standards obtaining in the former Indian provinces In effect artificial divisions restricting the field of action and scope for self development of the smaller States were done away with so that with greater material and moral resources to command they could now make their full contribution to the progress of the fatherland

This remarkable change started with the Chattisgarh States which on January 1 1948 merged with the province of Orissa The last State to merge was Cooch Behar which joined West Bengal on January 1 1950 In all 216 States with a total area of 108 7

square miles and a population of 19 158 millions were involved in this merger process

The States taken over as Centrally administered areas number 61 covering an area of 63 704 square miles with a population of 6 925 millions These have been formed into seven Centrally administered areas Of these three will now have legislative assemblies with ministries responsible to them

The first Union of States was born when 222 Kathiawar States and Estates joined to form a new union called Saurashtra Altogether 275 States covering an area of 215 450 square miles with a population of 34 7 millions were integrated into five such Unions of States By January 26 1950 this process of territorial integration of the States had been completed and the Republic started with a political unity unknown for many centuries Today the map of the Republic of India (see map III) shows fifteen States recognizable as former princely areas but so unified and integrated as to be hardly distinguishable from the other democratic units comprising the Union This revolution was effected by the new Government in some two and a half years and without recourse to arms save for the five day police action in Hyderabad

It may not be out of place here to set forth the benefits which integration and democratization have brought to the former Indian States In a democratic federal State there is no place for constitutional disparities as between one federated unit and another Thus the Constitution of India accords to the former Indian States as well as former British provinces equal status as full fledged constituent units of the Republic The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court also extends equally to the provinces and the States The same fundamental rights and the same legal measures

to enforce them are enjoyed by the people of the States as well as the former provinces Both in regard to their constitutional relationship with the Centre and internal organization the States are now on a par with the provinces The new constitution thus eradicates all artificial barriers which separated the Indian States from the rest of India and achieves for the first time the objective of a strong united democratic India.

As for democratization within the States the new Government of India was responsible for the final transfer of power from the rulers to the people who are now enjoying the same laws administration and popular representative government as the people of the former British provinces have done since independence Other problems of the States many of which form part of the legacy of their peculiar history still remain to be solved Thus much hard work is still ahead but given the support and goodwill of the people which it has hitherto enjoyed the Government is confident of solving all of them

Constitution and respect for the national flag These conditions were accepted by the RSS Chief in March 1949 whereupon the ban on the RSS was lifted and all prisoners were released

Another organization which worked on communal lines and opposed the secular policy of the Government of India was the Akali Dal under Master Tara Singh In Delhi the defiance of an order prohibiting the use of religious places for political purposes led to the arrest of Master Tara Singh He was however released after a few months

Moreover there were indications pointing to a survival of the Muslim League ideology in a section of Muslims in India who looked to Pakistan for inspiration They held secret meetings conducted pro-Pakistan and pro Razakar propaganda and sought to collect funds for Azad Kashmir Some acted as spies of the Razakar regime in Hyderabad Documents seized from them reveal a deep conspiracy to create internal disturbances in the event of an armed conflict with Hyderabad or Pakistan In some places the Muslims were advised to join the Communists in their efforts to overthrow the State and there were also reports to show that Muslim Leaguers were fomenting trouble in order to disrupt labour and increase tension in industrial areas

By far the most serious threat to internal peace however came from the Communists Their activities as the Prime Minister put it bordered on open revolt and included murder arson looting and other forms of sabotage and violence For some time clashes between them and the police became almost a daily affair in Calcutta They used bombs acid bulbs and other weapons against public servants and public property and burnt down buses and tram cars Towards

the end of 1948 they attempted to force a general strike of railway workers in spite of the fact that the majority of the railwaymen were against it The object was to create conditions of famine by paralysing the country s communications so that they could bring about a breakdown of the administration create chaos and capture power But the Government took prompt action and arrested the ringleaders and others who participated in subversive activities Thereafter the Communist Party went underground and launched a campaign of reckless murder and violence particularly in West Bengal Hyderabad and Madras In the innumerable pamphlets posters and circulars issued by them they made no secret of their all-out and desperate attempt to wreck the State They advocated violent murder sabotage strike and even armed revolution At certain places they organized shock brigades and started guerilla warfare In jails they went on hunger strike broke jail discipline attacked warders and all their actions showed that they were bent on a relentless war with the Government

In Hyderabad their activities took a more danger ous turn Taking advantage of the chaotic conditions in the State before the Government of India launched its police action and re tored law and order the Communists organized peasants into guerilla forces and forcibly took possession of the land and properties of landlords They burnt food stocks police stations post offices and private houses In Telengana particularly they ushered in a reign of terror

The Government lost no time in coming to grips with the situation They employed both military and police forces against the lawless elements and drove them out of their hideouts in the hilly countryside Communications were restored and facilities for educa tion medical aid and so forth were provided to raise

the morale of the harassed people Improvement in the situation can be gauged from the fact that in the first half of March 1951 the number of murders reported from seven districts of Telengana was only four the lowest on record

It has already been stated that on the morrow of independence the Government found its strength in the administrative services seriously depleted The two key services the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service suffered heavily from the retirement of many British officers and the opting of Muslim officers for Pakistan In fact these services had already been weakened during the war owing to the suspension of normal annual recruitment Before the war there were more than a thousand ICS officers in the various State cadres This number came down to less than 400 after partition The shortage of officers in the Indian Police in the various Part A States was even more serious Of the original strength of 473 direct recruitment posts only 163 IP officers continued in service after partition This partly explains the Government s resort to emergency measures Depletion compelled it to organize and strengthen the services as quickly as possible

The leaders of the Government were fully conscious of this hiatus Indeed even before the attainment of independence the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had visualized the need for replacing the ICS and the IP with services fully manned and controlled by Indians In October 1946 he secured the agreement of all provinces to the formation of two all India services namely the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service which laid the foundations of the future administrative structure of free India

But independence and the sudden weakening of

the existing administrative personnel raised two new problems first the immediate need to fill the gap left by the exodus of experienced British and Muslim officials and secondly the desirability of reorganizing the Government machinery and the civil services in consonance with the needs and functions of the new Government

As regards the first the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as Home Minister set up in 1948 a special recruit ment board to survey the potential administrative man power in the country both in and outside the ranks of the permanent services This board has so far selected 95 persons for the IAS and 79 for the IP in addition to those who have been selected as a result of the usual competitive examinations The new Indian Administrative Service is intended to serve all the purposes formerly covered by the ICS except the judiciary As an all India service it is under the ultimate control of the Central Government It is however divided into various State cadres each under the immediate control of the state government The Indian Police Service which is also organized on an all India basis provides the men needed for maintain ing the internal security of the country This service too is divided into various State cadres

Apart from these all India services the Central Government reorganized its Secretariat Services which had suffered badly from the effects of mass recruitment during the war year when little heed was paid to standards and promotions were nece sarily quick Even after independence owing to the need for making provision for displaced Government servants from Pakistan in the Central Government proper attention could not be paid to the problem However to arrest further deterioration of standards a scheme of reorga nization involving all Central Secretariat posts was

drawn up in October 1948 and finally a Central Secretariat Service consisting of four grades—Under Secretary Superintendent Assistant Superintendent and Assistant—was instituted Similarly steps were taken to form the ministerial service in two grades and a cadre of stenographers in three grades

The Government also framed rules for giving semi or quasi permanent status to suitable temporary employees in order to develop a sense of security among them

As a first step towards the reorganization of Ministries the subjects under a number of Ministries were re grouped The new Ministries that have emerged as a result are those of Food and Agriculture Commerce and Industry Works Production and Supply and Natural Resources and Scientific Research

In order to facilitate the framing of governmental policies and plans and ensure speed and efficiency in their execution the Government has established standing committees of the Cabinet for defence economic parliamentary and legal affairs and appointments In addition *ad hoc* Cabinet committees have been set up for the purposes of administrative reorganization and rehabilitation The Cabinet Secretariat has been strengthened by an Economic Wing A committee of secretaries keeps in touch with the Planning Commission and assists the Economic Committees of the Cabinet

The maintenance of law and order which is apt to be taken for granted when conditions are normal becomes the test of a Government in time of radical changes such as marked the coming of independence to India As we have seen the new Government of India had to contend not only with administrative dis

location but also undemocratic forces which inevitably raise their heads in such times Therefore no one will doubt that the Government was more than justified in all the measures it took in order to maintain law and order in the country For by so doing by its strong and resolute action it firmly laid the foundations of a secular democracy

CHAPTER V

DFFENCE

THE part that the troops played in this emergency was not confined to the quelling of riots No less remarkable was their role in the rescue of victims of religious fanaticism in West Punjab A Military Evacuation Organization was set up in September 1947 and in the short period of six weeks it moved nearly one and a half million Muslims to Pakistan and a larger number of non Muslims from Pakistan It also arranged for food convoys and provided military escort to refugee trains Floods rendered some of the routes almost unusable but the army engineers kept the lines of communication open

Similar enterprise and gallantry marked their relief work in Assam last year when earthquake and flood laid waste many parts of the State Troops patrolled the affected areas rescued marooned people and rendered medical aid In the inaccessible parts of northern Assam paratroopers were dropped to rescue people from collapsing houses and rising floods while army engineers repaired bridges and roads In addition the jawans launched a Miss a Meal campaign and the food thus saved was distributed among the sufferers Over Rs 100 000 were raised by voluntary subscription and the money sent to the Prime Minister s Relief Fund

The mettle of the defence forces hov ever was put to real test when there came an unexpected call to action from Kashmir In October 1947 large bands of marauders invaded the State at several points from across the Pakistan border and headed for the capital In response to an appeal for help from the people and their ruler (who had intimated the accession of the State to India) Indian troops were rushed to the defence of Kashmir and for fifteen months they were locked in battle against invaders consisting of both tribal irregulars and units of the Pakistan Armed Forces Some of the feats that they have to their credit in these campaigns are indeed without parallel in the military history of the world

The exploits of the Indian Air Force both in operations against the raiders and in the airlift of refugees now belong to history Despite unfavourable flying conditions and hazards of a mountainous terrain the IAF carried out the difficult task assigned to it and thereby endeared itself to the people of Jammu and Kashmir as well as the rest of India As many as 35 000 civilian refugees were flown out to places of safety from Poonch In flying to Leh the Dakotas of the Indian Air Force negotiated heights of 20 000 feet and over with improvized flying gear

Nor was the Army found wanting in gallantry Besides operational successes it established a record in armoured warfare when its light tanks drove through the snow bound boggy tracks across the Zojila at an altitude of 12 000 feet and foiled the plans of the enemy Despite the cease-fire agreed upon by Pakistan and India on January 1 1949 no truce has been achieved and even now Indian troops have to keep vigil on the cease fire line

While Kashmir operations were in progress

ditions in Hyderabad became menacing and the Government was compelled to intervene We have already related how the Indian forces brought peace and relief to the panic stricken people of Hyderabad

In spite of these unforeseen calls to duty which necessarily caused delay the programme of reconstitution expansion and modernization of the services in the wake of partition was pressed forward The armed forces of pre partition India were divided on a communal-cum-optional basis whereby predominantly Hindu and Muslim units were apportioned to India and Pakistan respectively Individuals of other communities serving in such units were given the choice of opting for the country they wished to serve The plan was executed by a co-ordinating authority provided by the Supreme Commander s headquarters under the control of a Joint Defence Council The bulk of this re-constitution work was completed by the end of November 1947 With the departure of the British forces the last contingent of which left India on February 28 1948 the task of nationalizing the services was taken in hand For this purpose an expert committee had already been functioning As a result of its recommendations the services of a small number of British officers most of whom are specialists belonging to technical branches have been retained Except for them the Indian Army today is fully Indian from the Commander in Chief to the juniormost subaltern

In regard to the Indian Air Force the question of nationalization did not arise as there was no British officer in it Here also the services of a few British officers and technicians had to be obtained on loan As regards the Navy full nationalization cannot be effected immediately as an adequate number of Indian officers with requisite experience are not yet available The policy however is the same here as in the other

services Only such British officers are retained or accepted on loan from the Royal Navy as are absolutely essential

A programme of self sufficiency in armament production has been drawn up and efforts are being made to produce fresh stores required for all the Services The largest single project in this respect is a prototype-cum machine tool factory set up to provide machine tools for ordnance factories A training school attached to the factory will impart instruction to workmen in skilled crafts The Defence Science Policy Board which includes among its members three distinguished scientists guides scientific research in matters connected with defence

The most important organizational change however was the integration of the Indian State Forces raised and maintained by the former Indian States In order to obviate the disparity of standards between the Indian Army and the Indian State Forces boards of officers were appointed to select the personnel of State Forces on modern and scientific lines The State Forces which emerged from this selection now form an integral part of the Indian Army and have the same uniform equipment rations and rates of pay

With the object of stimulating interest among educated young men in the defence of the country a National Cadet Corps has been organized Raised from all the States the Corps is divided into senior and junior divisions with a third division for girls An air force wing has been added and a naval wing will be added as soon as possible Enrolment is entirely voluntary and there is no liability for service in the Armed Forces But in an emergency these trained men will form a reserve of officers

ditions in Hyderabad became menacing and the Government was compelled to intervene We have already related how the Indian forces brought peace and relief to the panic stricken people of Hyderabad

In spite of these unforeseen calls to duty which necessarily caused delay the programme of reconstitution expansion and modernization of the services in the wake of partition was pressed forward The armed forces of pre partition India were divided on a communal-cum optional basis whereby predominantly Hindu and Muslim units were apportioned to India and Pakistan respectively Individuals of other communities serving in such units were given the choice of opting for the country they wished to serve The plan was executed by a co-ordinating authority provided by the Supreme Commander s headquarters under the control of a Joint Defence Council The bulk of this re-constitution work was completed by the end of November 1947 With the departure of the British forces the last contingent of which left India on February 28 1948 the task of nationalizing the services was taken in hand For this purpose an expert committee had already been functioning As a result of its recommendations the services of a small number of British officers most of whom are specialists belonging to technical branches have been retained Except for them the Indian Army today is fully Indian from the Commander in Chief to the juniormost subaltern

In regard to the Indian Air Force the question of nationalization did not arise as there was no British officer in it Here also the services of a few British officers and technicians had to be obtained on loan As regards the Navy full nationalization cannot be effected immediately as an adequate number of Indian officers with requisite experience are not yet available The policy however is the same here as in the other

during the battle of the River Plate The next year three destroyers each with a displacement of over 1 700 tons and carrying four 4 7 guns eight torpedo tubes and anti submarine equipment and weapons were purchased and they formed the first destroyer flotilla while with the frigates *Jamna Sutlej Kistna* and *Cauvery* which came to India s share after partition a frigate flotilla was formed These frigates are 1 400 ton vessels carrying six 4 gun and anti submarine equipment and weapons Another frigate INS *Tir* is now being used as a training ship India s naval squadron now consists besides the Flagship *Delhi* of some 600 ton minesweepers a specially fitted survey ship INS *Kukri* a tank landing ship and several types of landing craft

As a consequence of partition India lost three of her training establishments and a number of experienced officers and men She now sorely needed personnel to man the new cruiser and destroyers The British Admiralty however came to her help and undertook to train cadets in batches of 46 every year By the middle of 1948 the required complement of officers and men for INS *Delhi* had completed their training in England Simultaneously the Government expanded the training establishments at Jamnagar and Bombay while new training centres were opened at Cochin and Visakhapatnam

By 1950 the ships of the Indian Navy were ready to visit neighbouring countries These cruisers afforded opportunities to officers and men for proper sea training besides raising India s prestige among her neighbours and carrying her goodwill to them The Indian Navy and Air Force also carried out combined exercises with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force in the Far East at the East Indies station and with the Mediterranean Fleet On January 26 1950 at the

inauguration of the Republic the Navy shed its title Royal Thus the Indian Navy has made a good beginning As the President said "Though small it is second to none in efficiency devotion to duty and loyalty

On the morrow of partition the Indian Air Force was a half demolished structure standing on a shaky foundation The sudden winding up of Air Head quarters India Command then controlled by the Air Ministry in London and the withdrawal of the RAF units with their British staff threw into confusion the entire organization of the IAF To this was added the problem of accommodation for the displaced services since most of the permanent air force stations situated in the north west of undivided India fell to the share of Pakistan Thus the reorganized Air Head quarters had to undertake the task of building up the Air Force of free India almost from its foundation and today after four years the target of a 10-squadron force is in sight

It must be remembered however that a balanced and an operationally efficient air force requires various types of aircraft for different operational duties and a network of training maintenance supply and other administrative organizations that will make it tactically and strategically effective for air defence In other words it should be equipped with fighters bomber transports reconnaissance aircraft and several other types of training machines together with an adequate number of air crew ground technicians training and administrative staff Today the IAF has all this para phernalia within the structure of its compact 10 squad rons The Defence Ministry has also taken care to keep the services supplied with modern equipment as far as possible In 1948 three jet propelled Vampires were acquired by the IAF After these had successfully

undergone tests in various parts of the country more machines were purchased The new machines which are among the fastest and most modern and especially adapted for Indian conditions form the operational equipment of the IAF fighter force A new general reconnaissance unit has been raised and another has been equipped with four engined Liberator heavy bombers

A new all through flying training scheme was introduced early in 1949 with a view to improving flying training and speeding up both standard and number of future pilots of the IAF A Technical Training College for the IAF was opened in 1949 near Bangalore It was indeed high time that such a college were established for her Armed Forces which would require several thousand Air Force officers during the next few years No foreign institution could under take to train such a large number of cadets It was therefore decided that they should be trained in the country with the help of British experts

Plans have been formulated for the establishment of an Air Defence Reserve in order to augment the personnel of the IAF in times of national emergency The first effective step in this direction was taken in December last when an Air Defence Reserve Bill was introduced in Parliament

The works programme of the next few years envisages the construction of at least three permanent Air Force stations with modern operational airfields

After four years of labour the Government can claim to have not only made good the losses and dis locations in the Armed Forces caused by partition but considerably strengthened the defence system by reorganizing them and acquiring new material and equipment for them

CHAPTER VI

FOREIGN POLICY

FREEDOM which bestowed sovereignty and power upon India also brought her into direct relations with the other free nations of the world The conduct of her foreign relations called for a declared policy and a trained diplomatic service Hence a Ministry of External Affairs and a permanent cadre of officers destined for the Foreign Service were created

That the emergence of India in the family of nations was regarded by the Great Powers as an event of unusual importance is borne out bv the fact that during the very first year these Great Powers as well as a number of other powers established diplomatic relations with her and in most cases the initiative came from them Today India maintains abroad twenty embassies sixteen legations seven high commi sions, fourteen consulates five commissions and ten missions and agencies

The world waited with interest to see the part India played on the international scene for her size and geographical position her manifest and potential wealth of human and natural resources and above all the uniqueness of her tradition culture and struggle for freedom clearly proclaimed the arrival of a new and different protagonist All these factors no less

the obvious need for conditions favour
development after a long period of slaver
it imperative for India to strive for the prom
al peace India's policy of peace is
nor an academic attitude as some
were prone to think at the beginning It h
tested by the disturbing events f
upon the end of World War II

First of all as soon as freedom was won all
Britain was brought to an end The effect
happy that India was invited to remain a me
the Commonwealth even when she became a
Britain took the unusual measure of passing a
Parliament in order to accommodate Republica
Thus by the mere entry of India the horizo
Commonwealth was widened because of the id
practices she had brought to bear upon it
Britain's part in this historic change is certainl
able India can legitimately look upon it as a sig
success for her foreign policy as well as her wa
which is reflected in it

India's neutral and independent foreign
sometimes misunderstood and criticized by th
are directly involved in the present cold war
forget that the only stake India has in inter
politics is the promotion of peace so that
refashion her life and let others do the same a
having rid herself of the bitterness in her he
now begins her part with a clean slate—with
obligations to traditional friends or enemies T
she is not concerned with power politics which
inglorious power and inevitable conflict. At t

Korea But when that almost universal condemnation was sought to be turned into an instrument for the furtherance of sectional or ulterior interests she withdrew from that unworthy proceeding Bearing in mind that the only possible object of UN action in Korea could be the restoration of peace she advocated the limitation of the area of conflict and readmission of China into the comity of nations As later events showed much bloodshed and misery could have been avoided if her advice had been taken even the present negotiations for a truce would have been greatly facilitated if the People s Republic of China had been recognized by all concerned

So far from being neutral in international politics India takes a special interest in oppressed and underprivileged nations hence Asia and Africa bulk large in her foreign affairs Every progressive movement in these continents has always found a staunch supporter in India witness India s contribution to Indonesia s brave struggle for independence and the liberation of the people of former Italian colonies

The birth of the People s Republic of China marked the culmination of such a movement though against a different kind of opposition Not to recognize the new regime in China is to be unsympathetic to the aspirations of Asia Without an eastern orientation they are apt to be misunderstood and confused with other issues Lack of sympathy and wrongheaded action can make the confusion worse confounded and the opposite of the desired end may ensue India however has kept her head and would welcome her in the counsels of the United Nations

Racialism is another issue on which India takes a definite stand She cannot tolerate it in any form anywhere She has strongly protested against the

apartheid policy of the South African Government and brought it before the bar of world opinion which is bound to prevail over the manoeuvres and subterfuges of that Government

India is a firm believer in international co operation and *open diplomacy under democratic control* When the Soviet Union s boycott of UN and China s absence from it threatened to disintegrate it the Prime Minister addressed personal appeals to Marshal Stalin and Mr Dean Acheson and his *demarches* were widely acclaimed Earlier at the third General Assembly in Paris he was requested by the President to address it in his personal capacity At the invitation of President Truman and Prime Minister Mr St Laurent he visited the United States and Canada and helped much to bring these countries closer to India By his personal example he has probably done more than any other contemporary statesman to promote international confidence and goodwill Today India is a member of the Security Council having been elected to it practically unanimously for two years from January 1 1950

India is most fortunate in her relations with her immediate neighbours On the friendly intervention of the Indian Government the differences between the King of Nepal the Prime Minister and the Nepali Congress were composed and Nepal was set on the road to democracy The ancient bonds of religion and culture with Nepal were strengthened by treaties of peace and friendship and trade Similar treaties have been signed with Britain and Sikkim also

The alarming situation in Tibet was relieved by timely and cool headed action on the part of India While Tibet was encouraged to send a delegation to Peking in order to open direct negotiations China was persuaded by India to halt her march to Lhasa In this

connexion it may be said that India is one of the few countries which have diplomatic missions in Peking

Against these successes and encouragements a disappointment has to be recorded with regret In spite of the grave provocations which Pakistan gave India by invading Kashmir and by many other hostile acts India has sought her friendship Pakistan s treatment of her minorities is particularly scandalous Having squeezed out practically all the non Muslims from West Punjab and Sind a systematic campaign was started against them in East Bengal Many Hindus were massacred and thousands of them driven out of the country Pakistan s atrocities came to a head in February 1950 and in the end the Prime Minister succeeded in persuading the Pakistan Prime Minister to sign an agreement on April 8 which mainly bore on the welfare of minorities But unfortunately it cannot be said that a *modus vivendi* has yet been reached with Pakistan

The Government recognizes a special responsibility to those Indian who have settled in foreign countries such as Ceylon Burma Malaya and South Africa They suffer from many disabilities which arise out of immigration regulations labour legislation political rights nationalization colour bar and so on The Government is doing its best to remove them but unfortunately these matters are subject to legal restrictions and popular prejudicies

To formulate a distinctive foreign policy out of the raw material of national tradition habit character and aspirations takes generations of free political practice and thinking What India has achieved in four years is truly astonishing and this would have been impossible had a political genius not taken the helm Most people would agree that the Prime Minister (who

is also the Foreign Minister) was modest and restrained when he said I am glad to say that in spite of conflicts that continually threaten the world our relations with every country except one are friendly We have endeavoured in our own small way to throw our weight on the side of peace and to keep ourselves out of military and like commitments

CHAPTER VII

FINANCE

THE economic functions of the State in India have increased considerably since independence During British rule the functions of the Finance Department were confined largely to the control of revenue and expenditure at the Centre Since 1947 there has been an increase in the scope and initiative of the Government which has undertaken various development projects such as river valley projects land reclamation schemes a fertilizer factory at Sindri a locomotive factory at Chittaranjan and an aircraft factory at Bangalore There are other directions in which the responsibilities of the Ministry of Finance have grown India has a clear cut fiscal policy to suit her national interests and it is carried out by the Reserve Bank of India in close co operation with the Central Finance Ministry The Ministry also maintains liaison with international bodies like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund In partnership with certain other Commonwealth countries India is working out a plan of development for all under developed countries of the South East Asian region

The Finance Ministry was reconstituted in 1949 to discharge its vastly increased obligations The National Income Unit and the National Sample Survey Branch of the Finance Ministry are collecting statistical

data which will make it possible for the administrator to put India's development plans on a more rational basis than at present

Unfortunately these additional responsibilities devolved on the Government at a time of crisis The problem of food for example has assumed alarming proportions in recent years so that large sums of money have to be found for imports of foodgrains from abroad In 1948 49 India had an adverse balance of payments with both the hard currency countries and the sterling area In 1949 the adverse balance stood at Rs 187 59 crore and exports to hard currency areas were also on the decline After devaluation however the situation improved considerably Thus during the financial year 1950-51 India had already a favourable balance of Rs 46 85 crore and this improvement is expected to be maintained during the forthcoming years

Meanwhile it has been suggested several times that the Government of India should revalue the rupee and restore it to its old par value The Finance Minister however has made it clear that such a measure would not be in the interests of the country He has cited figures to show that a 15 per cent revaluation might involve us in a deficit in our balance of payments to the extent of Rs 50 crore and a 30 per cent revaluation might bring about a deficit of Rs 135 crore At the existing rate India would probably be able to balance her export and import accounts

India built up huge sterling credit during World War II through services and supplies to the UK to assist her in her war effort Our sterling credits amounted to Rs 1 516 crore The amount withdrawn from it includes Rs 201 crore which was Pakistan's share of the balances Initially a sum of Rs 296 crore

was also paid to His Majesty's Government as the capital value of sterling pensions and as payments towards surplus defence stores taken over by us Only Rs 142 crore have been used to meet deficits in our balance of payments The best part of the sum has been spent in buying food from abroad A part of this money was used to import capital goods industrial raw materials and consumer goods

India's prosperity will depend upon the success of the development projects of the central and the state governments The Planning Commission which was established a year ago was charged with the responsibility of examining these plans and co ordinating them into a single five year development programme The Planning Commission has already submitted a preliminary report to the Government and the final report will be submitted in the light of the reactions of the public and private enterprise to the preliminary repor The five year plan envisaged by the Planning Commission involves a total investment of Rs 1 793 crore The plan is divided into two parts the first part involves an expenditure of Rs 1 493 crore and is expected to restore the pre war conditions of supply in essential consumer goods by the end of 1955 56 The second part of the plan involving an expenditure of Rs 300 crore provides for a slightly higher rate of development during the next five years The Commission feels that the first part of the plan should be implemented by the country at all costs The second part could be taken up as soon as sufficient external assistance became available There are several development projects envisaged by the state and the Central governments and we do not have the resources to implement all of them immediately The Planning Commission examined the competing demands on our limited resources and has drawn up

list of priorities In the first part of the plan the priorities are

(1) completion of the programmes in hand including rehabilitation of displaced persons
(2) increasing production of food and raw materials over a relatively short period
(3) implementation of schemes for developing material and technical resources to increase employment in the country
(4) consolidation of the progress made in the sphere of social services and
(5) provision of adequate administrative and social services to ensure a rapid rate of development in the less developed States

A number of these plans are already being executed and some of them come under the development scheme envisaged by the Colombo Plan on which the National Five-year Plan represents an advance Unlike the former the National Plan demarcates a part consisting mainly of projects under execution which should foreign aid to the required extent not be forthcoming will have to be implemented in any case This will of course entail a greater measure of domestic effort and hardship

In the budget for the year 1951 52 a beginning has been made to raise the required internal finances. The scope of increasing direct taxation being limited in India methods of direct and indirect taxation have been adopted Care has however been taken to see that the burden of taxation is as equitably and widely distributed as possible so that it does not fall heavily on any particular class or section of the community While the people are expected to bear present hardship cheerfully for future prosperity the Govern

ment has also effected a good deal of economy in their expenditure in recent times Audit control has also been tightened

India has concluded three master agreements with UNESCO FAO and ILO and an agreement with the USA under the Truman Point Four Programme Under these agreements India will receive free technical assistance from abroad for use in her development projects

Under the Colombo Plan Canada and Australia have agreed to subscribe £25 million and £ A 31 5 million respectively to India s development fund Also the counter part funds of the US food loan to India will be used for financing our development projects Since external financial assistance will be necessary there is considerable scope for foreign investments in India The Government of India has allowed foreign investors several facilities for the repatriation of capital and profits under certain specified circumstances Thus foreign capital invested in India will suffer from no discriminatory treatment and will enjoy all the facilities allowed to Indian investors

CHAPTER VIII

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

ONE of the severest tribulations of the new Government was the relief and rehabilitation of the millions of non Muslim citizens of Pakistan who oppressed by their Muslim fellow-citizens took refuge in India Needless to say the Indian Government was quite unprepared for this exigency which followed upon partition About 8.5 million men women and children arrived from Pakistan—5 million from West Pakistan and 3 5 million from East Pakistan The enormity of the task facing the Government was unprecedented. Not even Europe has had to contend with a problem of such magnitude after World War II

It is true that about four million Muslims also left East Punjab for Pakistan But there was considerable disparity in economic status and other conditions between the outgoing Muslims and the in coming non Muslims The latter owned property in Pakistan and belonged mostly to the professional or trading classes and some were wealthy people The outgoing Muslims left far less property behind and were generally of the lower middle class Thus there were few trades and vocations abandoned by Muslims in India into which the displaced persons from Pakistan could be fitted the great bulk of the latter were obliged to start life anew in India

ment has also effected a good deal of economy in their expenditure in recent times Audit control has also been tightened

India has concluded three master agreements with UNESCO FAO and ILO and an agreement with the USA under the Truman Point Four Programme Under these agreements India will receive free technical assistance from abroad for use in her development projects

Under the Colombo Plan Canada and Australia have agreed to subscribe £25 million and £ A 31 5 million respectively to India s development fund Also the counter part funds of the US food loan to India will be used for financing our development projects Since external financial assistance will be necessary there is considerable scope for foreign investments in India The Government of India has allowed foreign investors several facilities for the repatriation of capital and profits under certain specified circumstances Thus foreign capital invested in India will suffer from no discriminatory treatment and will enjoy all the facilities allowed to Indian investors

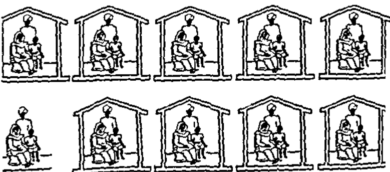
ad also been made available to displaced persons and granted to them In the camps work and train centres had been opened

But soon planned rehabilitation was begun At a held in July 1948 quotas of displaced were fixed for each State and separate for resettlement outlined The Central defrayed practically the entire expendi on displaced persons and planned the gradual nt of large numbers of men women and hildren from the camps to their new homes

In regard to rural rehabilitation it was found that land abandoned by Muslims in India were smaller area and poorer in quality than those left by Hindus and Sikhs in West Pakistan Hence in allotting land to displaced agriculturists some kind of rationing became inevitable By elaborate planning and the hard labour of thousands of workers all application for allotment were scrutinized and the claims verified The land available in the Punjab and PEPSU was 4 735 000 acres while there were as many as 577 000 claimants A scheme was therefore devised after ascertaining the amount of land left behind by the displaced persons in Pakistan It enabled the Government to give each person enough land for a reasonable living Many displaced persons were settled outside the Punjab and PEPSU As many as 45 000 families were settled on the land ranging from ten to fifteen acres per family in Matsya Bikaner Bhopal Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country Each family also received a loan for the repair of a house purchase of bullocks implements etc Up to August 1950 these loans totalled Rs 65 million and assistance given in kind represented an even larger amount of money

It soon became obvious that the allotment of abandoned land could not fully solve the problem of rural rehabilitation More land wa needed The Government therefore decided to reclaim waste land Thus a double purpose was served rehabilitation became linked with the Grow More Food Campaign Vast areas were put under the tractor in Bhopal Ganga Khadir and the Naini Tal Terai of Uttar Pradesh The Uttar Pradesh schemes alone cost over Rs 7 5 *million* *According to these schemes* as soon as the land is ploughed up by tractors a specially constituted board selects batches of approved cultivators from displaced persons and sends them to the new colony where they are given accommodation and free rations until they are able to earn their living from the land

At the end of 1950 only 15 000 agricultural families remained to be settled 622 000 families having been already accounted for Of these 10 000 families will shortly be settled in different States while new land is being sought for the remaining 5 000



Of very 10 u ban di plac d p s n who m from W st P ki t n 9 h e b n pr id d f in th Housing Schemes f Go ernm t— nd one r main

Urban rehabilitation presented a different set of problems For the educated and trading classes the Government had to provide both accommodation and means of livelihood But the shortage of houses was already acute it had remained unsolved since the war Hence the Government could not at once pro vide roofed accommodation to thousands of homeless people who flocked to cities However by the end of 1950 it was possible to accommodate 2 050 000 urban displaced persons in evacuee houses reconditioned barracks and new buildings Further housing schemes are in hand which it is hoped will ease the situation to a great extent

Just as the reclamation of waste land helped food production so the establishment of townships (See map IV) for displaced persons became a significant factor in the social evolution of India It was a great idea of which Nilokheri is a representative embodiment In this township 85 miles from Delhi 7 500 men and women are engaged in a unique experiment in co operative effort which has not only revived their faith but con vinced them of the value of the democratic way of life Earned income social ownership of the means of production full employment for all able bodied adults and integration of individual liberty into collective responsibility are the chief features of this experiment The settlers themselves have cleared jungles and drained swamps laid roads built houses worksheds and offices sunk tube wells installed electricity and set up industrial plant obtained from the Disposals and Salvage Departments A dairy agricultural and poultry farms and a piggery were gradually added. A Central Producers Association controls the co operatives representing various trades and industries such as farming engineering cottage industries printing power house water supply tannery wood work etc The governing principle is that the more the worker

works the more he adds to the amenities of life in which he has his due share A certain proportion of the workers savings is deducted to meet the expenses of the Association Nilokheri which visualizes a population of 10 000 engaged in various arts crafts and industries will soon begin to pay back in instalments spread over twenty years and with interest the Government s capital investment of Rs 7 5 million

Besides the townships a large construction programme was taken in hand in Delhi where the pressure of displaced population was particularly heavy A string of colonies are now springing up all around Delhi each with its own schools dispensaries shopping centre and places of worship By the end of the present financial year the Government will have spent nearly Rs 60 million on the housing of displaced persons in Delhi alone

At the end of 1950 the number of refugees assisted in one form or another stood at 4 900 000 which represents 98 per cent of the total displaced population from West Pakistan Thus the problem which once threatened to upset the whole economy of the country is now well under control

CHAPTER IX

FOOD AND AGRICULTUPE

THE scarcity of food has probably tried this Govern ment more sorely than any other problem Increa_e in population having outstripped food production food was already in deficit when independence came Parti tion hov ever aggravated the position by taking awav from India a greater proportion of cultivable land than population Moreover India has to feed the balance of migrants which is not inconsiderable

Therefore India has no alternative but to import food In fact food wa imported as early as 1943 in order to cover the deficit and is still being imported draining her of valuable foreign exchange

Fortunately this deficit is not due to any lack of land but to a foreign government s indifference in the past Thus in 1947 India had only 198 million acres of land under cultivation for a population of more than 320 million—at lea t 20 per cent less than what hould have been the normal Even this land was neglected and could not produce a much as it should have done In India the yield of wheat is 660 lbs per acre while in a country like Egypt it is as high as 1 918 lbs This low yield clearly demonstrates the necessity of intensive cultivation with the help of improved implements seeds and manure

Consequently the Government of India initiated a five year plan and adopted various methods to increase the production of food crops Early in 1949 it launched a self sufficiency campaign calculated to produce an additional 4 8 million tons of food crops during 1950 51 The end of the crop year of 1951 was fixed as the deadline whereafter there would be no more imports except to build up a central reserve or to meet an emergency created by the failure of crops Unfortunately as we all know the emergency did arise following drought in Madras flood in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and a series of earthquakes in Assam—all in the same year These calamities destroyed nearly 5 5 million tons of foodgrains and not only neutralized the effects of the self sufficiency drive but created a fresh deficit necessitating heavy imports in 1951

The five year plan included intensive cultivation and reclamation of land In order to secure the co operation of the agriculturists farmers unions were organized in the rural areas The intensive cultivation schemes were divided broadly into permanent and recurring schemes The permanent schemes included minor irrigation works such as the construction of wells tank channels and small dams besides land improvement measures The recurring schemes related mainly to the production and distribution of improved seed the application of manure and fertilizers composting of refuse and plant protection. Work under these schemes was intensified by stages so as to achieve a progressive increase in the yield per acre

In the earlier stages the Government spent more money on the recurring schemes Later however the emphasis was shifted to those of a permanent nature

The state governments supervise the actual work

onnected with intensive cultivation which is carried ut on the small holdings of peasants The Central overnment has laid down certain policies and principles and maintains a close liaison with the tates in regard to their requirements in men money and materials Financial assistance in the shape of rants and loans is also received by the States from he Centre for green manuring compo ting seed multiplication and land improvement An essential condition of these grants is that the cultivator himself must bear half the cost of the scheme The other half is shared equally by the Centre and the State

In order to bring cultivable waste land under the plough the Government set up a Central Tractor Organization in 1947 with 180 tractors at its disposal This Organization has carried out some of the largest reclamation operations in Asia including the reclamation of Kans infested land in Madhya Pradesh Kans a wild growth with roots go ng down as deep as fourteen inches was once thought to be ineradicable and the villagers were at first apathetic to the Government s scheme As the work progressed however their indifference was transformed into enthusiasm and active co operation Now the crops produced in the reclaimed land are found to be superior to tho e grown in other areas Reclamation has co t the Government Rs 18 million while the value of the crop rai ed on the reclaimed land is estimated at Rs 6 million

Similar chemes are in progress in Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh Bhopal and other parts of the country

The success of these schemes led to the extension of the cope of the Organization s activities In 1949 a loan of $10 million was obtained from the World

Bank for the purchase of 375 heavy tractors Of these 240 have already arrived and been put to work

During the three years ending in 1949 50 the Central Tractor Organization reclaimed 183 374 acres of land in various States increasing the total food production by 61 000 tons In 1951 52 it proposes to reclaim another 280 000 acres which will yield an additional 80 000 tons of food

The main features of the intensive cultivation plan are the sinking and repairing of wells construction or repair of tanks minor irrigation works installation of water lifting appliances distribution of fertilizers and oil cakes and utilization of compost and other manures As a result of this drive the country obtained 3 44 million tons of additional foodgrains between 1948 and 1951 It was hoped that the balance of 1 4 million tons would be made up by the end of March 1952 through the reclamation of seven to eight hundred thousand acres of land the sinking of 300 tube wells and intensive cultivation in areas which could easily be irrigated

While it has to be admitted that self sufficiency in food has not yet been achieved it must not be forgotten that but for the efforts made in that direction the the country would have had to import almost double the amount of food she actually does The main ground of the Government s hope of success is not o much the application of mechanical aids but the enthusiasm and support of the people

In the Etawa district of Uttar Pradesh for instance food production has increased from nine maunds to twenty three maunds an acre on an average This succe s was gained as the Prime Minister pointed out at a press conference not by *specially treating the*

and or employing mechanical devices but by greater fforts on the part of the villagers

To encourage popular enthusiasm crop competi ions have been organized both by the Centre and the tates Under the *Central scheme the Indian Council* of Agricultural Research recently conferred the title of Krishi Pandit on three cultivators—two from *Uttar Pradesh and one from Bengal—for their* out standing contribution to the cause of agriculture

Uninformed criticism boggles at the figure the Government spent on the self sufficiency drive during the past three years to wit Rs 580 million It however fails to see the returns it brought The net gain was 3 44 million tons of additional foodgrains Even if the estimates were too high by 50 per cent the increase could not have been less than 2 92 million Thus a total investment of Rs 580 million brought Rs 1 160 million in the first year and Rs 720 million thereafter

The self sufficiency programme also includes pro duc ion of jute and cotton *vital for our jute and* textile industries which between them earn consider able foreign exchange The jute industry needs 7 25 million bales of jute every year *After partition the* major jute growing areas went to Pakistan and India became deficient in jute to the extent of 5 5 million bales Similarly *our yearly consumption of the East* Indian variety of cotton is 4 07 million bales Owing to partition much of the cotton growing area now forms *part of Pakistan and production in* 1949 50 fell to 2 97 million bales In order to meet the situation an integrated production programme was drawn up whereby *some land* was diverted from food to cash crop The additional output in jute under this programme has been estimated at 1 2 million bales By

March 1952 India expects to produce 5 05 million bales (3 85 plus 1 2 million bales) that is nearly three fourths of our requirements of jute At the same time cotton production is expected to rise to 4 1 million bales which is more than our present total needs It has been calculated that the diversion of land to jute and cotton will involve a possible loss of 900 000 tons of foodgrains This loss will be more than counterbalanced by the additional output of jute and cotton the net gain being in the neighbourhood of Rs 1 608 million

Under the integrated programme subsidy to the cultivator has been linked with procurement Hitherto the States have been receiving from the cultivator on an average only 10 per cent of the additional produc tion obtained as a result of intensive cultivation Under the integrated plan financial assistance is given to the farmer on condition that he surrenders 60 per cent of the increased output to the State The adminis trative machinery ensures close supervision of the progress at all levels In the villages for instance representative institutions have been harnessed to the task of cultivating fallow land repairing wells and tanks and preparing compost

The short term programme for the current year has been fitted into a long term ten year programme which aims at land transformation involving co-ordinated development of an area so that all resources of land water and livestock are fully developed and ample scientific aid and other facilities provided Vana Mahotsava which aims at adding 300 million trees and protecting and developing forests is an integral part of this programme

The Government also initiated a countrywide drive for the preparation of compost from human cattle and vegetable waste hitherto burnt or thrown into the

ers A number of States have now made it obligatory the municipalities to convert waste and sewage into ost In 1949 50 890 municipalities prepared one l tons of compost from urban refuse while 40 000 llages prepared another five million tons of compost addition the Government fertilizer factory at Sindri it eventually provide 35 000 tons of fertilizer

What has been so well begun by such methods as nd reclamation intensive cultivation and integrated will surely be completed by the benefit of ver valley and other development project which are being executed India will again be a land of

CHAPTER X

THE PROJECTS

To this end the Government has launched schemes of harnessing India's mighty rivers to the control of flood irrigation of arable land and in some cases generation of power A number of river valley projects have gradually taken shape and as they can help immensely to grow more food they have received the highest priority In fact the Government has been spending more on them than on any other subject except defence

Altogether there are 135 river valley projects under execution Of them eleven are multi purpose sixty irrigation and sixty four purely power projects When completed they will have cost the Government some Rs 5 900 million The major projects alone numbering twelve are estimated to cost Rs 4 390 million Eight of these are multi purpose in their scope three power schemes and one is an irrigation scheme Expenditure on the various multi purpose irrigation and power schemes totalled Rs 394 600 000 in 1949 50 and Rs 785 900 000 in the following year

The multi purpose projects are so called because of the manifold benefits they confer on the community such as the development of internal navigation facilities for soil conservation afforestation fish culture

vision of drinking water and development of eation centres besides as already mentioned con of flood which causes enormous destruction to ps landed property cattle and human life irriga facilities for growing additional food and cash ps and production of hydro electric power

Let us take a glance at the major projects

The Bhakra Nangal Project in the Punjab envi es the construction of a 680 ft high dam across Sutlej near Bhakra about fifty miles above Rupar Ambala district About eight miles below this int the Nangal dam ninety feet high is nearing mpletion There will be three power houses on the ngal canal The dams will irrigate an area of 3 6 illion acres which is expected to yield 130 000 tons additional foodgrains and 800 000 bales of cotton e project provides for the generation of 400 000 K W power which will serve the Punjab PEPSU Rajas ian Delhi and Uttar Pradesh When the project is mpleted the Punjab will again become the granary India The industrialization of the State will also facilitated

The Hirakud Project in Orissa is the first of a iain of three dams planned for the harnessing of the Iahanadi It provides for the irrigation of 1 100 000 cres beginning in 1953 54 When fully developed he project will yield 340 000 tons of foodgrains and 4 000 tons of cash crops such as sugarcane and cotton nd supply 321 000 K W of power of which 24 000 K W vill be available in 1952 53 This power will work he furnaces and rolling mills of Jamshedpur and also ontribute to the systematic utilization of the untapped orest and mineral resources of the State The Hirakud lam will not only provide adequate flood protection

to the delta area but also improve appreciably the navigability of the Mahanadi

The Damodar Valley Project is modelled on the famous Tennessee Valley Authority in the USA and will greatly benefit the States of West Bengal and Bihar The scheme comprises eight storage dams with hydro electric stations two auxiliary plants with an installed capacity of 240 000 K W and an additional thermal power station at Bokaro with an installed capacity of 200 000 K W The building of the Bokaro Thermal Power Station is nearing completion and it will start functioning towards the end of 1952 The Konar dam is expected to be ready by June 1952, and the Tilya dam by the following December The whole project has been planned in such a way that as each component part is completed benefits will accrue from it The project will ultimately provide effective control on the flooding of the Damodar which is notorious for its vagaries and destructiveness Other important benefits will be irrigation facilities for 1 000 000 acres of land ample electric power and cheap water transport

The Tungabhadra Project which will serve Madras and Hyderabad envisages a dam across the Tungabhadra near Mallapuram three miles above Hospet in Bellary district There will be two canals one will irrigate 300 000 acres in Madras and the other will irrigate 419 000 acres in Hyderabad The project will generate 155 000 K W of electricity and help in the additional production of 210 000 tons of foodgrains It is likely to be completed in June 1953

The Machkund hydro-electric scheme will harness the waters of the Machkund which forms the boundary between Madras and Orissa and will be administered jointly by the two States The power site is at the

uduma Falls about 125 miles from Visakhapatnam by oad The power house will have three generating nits to begin with each capable of producing 17 350 W of electricity

The Kakrapara Project in Bombay State consists f a dam across the Tapti at Kakrapara fifty miles oove Surat It provides for a canal on either bank of le river The irrigation of 562 520 acres and genera on of 48 000 K W will be the chief benefits accruing om it The additional food production resulting from le cheme will be 166 000 tons

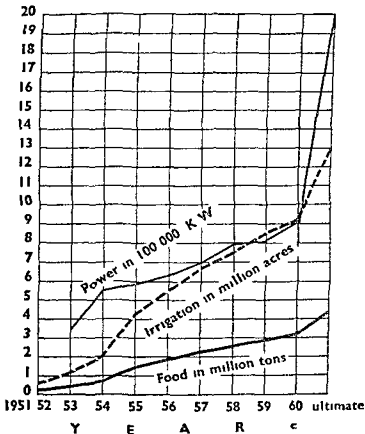
Other major schemes under execution are the arda power project in Uttar Pradesh the Mayurakshi rigation cum power project in West Bengal the hambal irrigation cum power project in Madhya harat and Rajasthan the Lal kavali irrigation cum ower project in Mysore and the power projects in ladhya Pradesh

In addition 123 smaller power and irrigation rojects each costing anything between a few hundred housand and one hundred million rupees are under xecution in nineteen States including those already nentioned

A river valley project is an elaborate affair and akes time to complete We must not expect immehate results from the projects which have just been named However we may have a foretaste of them ven in the current year while in the next five years or so their advantages will be more and more apparent

For example the quantity of additional foodgrains resulting from the operation of the projects will rise from 200 000 tons in 1951 52 to 1 400 000 tons in 1954 55

PROJECTS FOR FOOD, IRRIGATION AND POWER



and 3 100 000 tons in 1959 60 while the peak figure to be attained is 4 300 000 tons These figures do not take into account the additional yield that may result from the efforts at intensive cultivation which are being made under the food self sufficiency plan

Besides the 135 projects under execution there are 122 projects which cannot be taken in hand because of lack of funds All these projects taken together will provide irrigation facilities for an additional area of 42 000 000 acres which is roughly twice the present irrigated area in the USA The quantity of additional foodgrains is likely to be about 14 000 000 tons which will not only make good the deficits but also raise the standard of nutrition in the country

Between August 1947 and December 1951 India will have imported foodgrains worth Rs 5 430 million As against this huge expenditure the 135 projects now under execution are expected to cost Rs 5 900 million While the money spent on the import of foodgrains represents so much loss of precious foreign exchange which could be used to finance national development projects the amount being spent on these projects represents permanent investment They will provide two vital requisites of progress namely enough food and plenty of electricity to say nothing of the other important advantages such as flood control and inland navigation

The rapid electrification of rural areas was one of the urgent tasks to which the Government applied itself earnestly In 1947 only 1 295 villages with a population of less than 5 000 each were electrified This figure rose to 2 118 in 1949 In other words about thirty eight villages out of every 10 000 each with a population below 5 000 are now served by electricity

An important step was taken by the Government in 1948 when it enacted the Electricity (Supply) Act with the object of bringing about a rationalization of the electricity industry and speedy electrification of the country The Act provides for the formation of State electricity boards in the States and the establishment of an expert body called the Central Electricity Authority to supervise the work of the State electricity boards The present installed capacity in the whole country is just over 2 000 000 K W According o expert estimate by 1954 it will increase to 3 450 000 K W—an increase of over 72 per cent By 1959 it is expected to rise to 4 850 000 K W

Our expenditure on irrigation and electricity projects compares favourably with what the USA spends or proposes to spend on her projects In that country the works so far completed those under construction and those planned to meet the needs of the immediate future are together estimated to cost $28 354 million which is about six times India s expenditure of Rs 19 000 million on the projects under execution and to be taken in hand In other words for the benefit of a population which is about one third of India s the USA will have to spend six times as much as India

CHAPTER XI

COMMERCE

HE chief features of the commercial policy of the overnment are the promotion of foreign trade opera ion of trade controls application of fiscal policy as an nstrument of economic development maintenance of rade services and functions abroad and the developnent of Indian shipping

The Government has kept up the drive to develop oreign trade by a variety of methods such as the onclusion of bilateral agreements with a number of ountries liberalisation of import control participation n international fairs and exhibitions strengthening of ndian commercial representations abroad etc

The bilateral trade agreements are intended to tablish direct contacts secure essential and sca ce oods not otherwise obtainable and promote export of ndian goods Of course India trades with many other ountries also with whom she has no trade agreement or instance the UK and the USA

One of the most effective instruments for the romotion of foreign trade i the commercial service broad which has been expanded lately This service ushes Indian goods and keep in close touch with oreign markets For the same purpose India parti

cipated in a number of international fairs and exhibitions including the British Industries Fair the Brussels International Trade Fair the Women s International Exposition in New York the Stockport Exhibition *the Paris National Fair the Canadian National* Exhibition the Chicago Fair the International Tobacco Fair and the International Trade and Cultural Fair at Djakarta

Exhibitions of Indian goods were also organized by the Government through their trade representatives in London Singapore New Orleans Stockholm and Gothenburg

In order to expand trade without detriment to internal requirements export controls were liberalized in 1949 They had been in force since the war because of the internal shortage of goods Sub equently they were found useful in developing exports and earning foreign exchange As a result of the policy of liberalization the export trade in most commodities became either completely free or very nearly so by the end of 1949

In the beginning of 1950 owing to an excessive oversea demand for a number of commodities certain restrictions had to be imposed on them It is important to understand the necessity for export control which guards against excessive export of essential commodities particularly raw materials of which Indian industries were short and en ures discretional canalizing of exports in order to earn foreign exchange However following the heavy adverse balance of India s foreign trade in 1949 the emphasis was shifted from export control to export promotion

Import control has often been criticized Admittedly, open general licences and consequent liberaliza

tion of imports tend to check inflation in the country That is why open general licences were introduced in July 1948 when deep anxiety was felt over the rising price level and cost of living index in the principal industrial centres This policy can be justified on another ground In June 1948 it was found that a restrictive import policy had resulted in an unspent balance of £ 80 million which was wholly unjustifiable in view of the acute inflationary conditions prevailing in the country

The immediate effect of this liberal import policy was that further rise in the price index was arrested indeed after July 1948 it began to decline The cost of living index showed the same downward trend

But it was soon noticed that the effective demand for imports in the country was very much greater than could be financed out of our exchange resources The foreign exchange position soon became disquieting and the Government was compelled to cancel Open General Licence No XI on May 5 1949 and issued a revised OGL No XV on May 19 permitting the import of only a limited range of commodities without licence from soft currency areas With the cancellation of the open general licences restriction on imports in the latter half of 1949 and larger export earnings the balance of payments improved in 1950 This relatively easy position was reflected in the slightly more liberal programmes for the year

Jute and cotton manufacture are among the important items of export from India Until recently India had to be dependent on the imports of raw jute and raw cotton from Pakistan In view of Pakistan s intransigence India decided to be self sufficient in respect of these raw materials In the meantime devaluation and the Korean War stimulated demands

for many commodities particularly jute manufactures Throughout 1950 the demand for jute manufactures in oversea markets remained steady Prices soared so high that the Government had to enhance the export duty on he sian and sackings Of other Indian com modities textiles are competing succe sfully in foreign markets

The policy of granting protection or assistance to indu tries in order to encourage and promote the indus trialization of the country has been vigorously pursued by the Government Not only the period of protection has been extended in the case of those commodities which were already enjoying it but a number of new industries have been given protection In these matters the Government is guided by the recommendations of the Tariff Board In some cases protection has been allowed to lap e Before decisions are taken however investigations are made into the claims of industries for protection The continuance of protection in order to establish new industries is also examined

Regarding trade relations with Pakistan the Government continued its efforts to reach long term agreements beneficial to the economy of both countries As the Pakistan Government was not agreeable to this a short term agreement for the year 1948-49 was concluded However in ormal discussions be tween the Commerce Minister of India and the Finance Minister of Pal istan in May 1949 led to the breaking down of some of the barriers Negotiations were again started in June 1949 for a fresh agreement for the supply of commodities during the period 1949 50 and an agreement was signed on July 24 1949 under which among other things India promised to export to Paki stan a number of goods including cotton textiles But India had an adverse balance of trade with Pakistan in 1948 49 because of the unwillingness of that country

to import cotton textiles and other goods from India under the earlier agreement The agreement of May 1949 also was not honoured by Pakistan On November 12 1949 violating the agreement of July 24 1949 Pakistan placed India on the list of countries from which no import of cotton textiles was to be licensed Gradually a stage was reached towards the end of 1949 when there was a virtual cessation of trade between India and Pakistan

In April 1950 the question of reviving trade was discussed when the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Delhi As a result an agreement was concluded on April 21 1950 Originally intended to remain in force only up to the end of July 1950 it was subsequently extended The agreement provided for the supply of 4 000 000 maunds of raw jute to India in exchange for which India agreed to supply Pakistan with 20 000 tons of jute manufactures and appreciable quantities of cotton textiles and some other commodities In addition to the mutual supply of commodities there was also a provision in the agreement for the free movement of certain commodities from one country to the other without import and export restrictions on either side so that no release of foreign exchange by either Government would be required This agreement was terminated on September 30 1950 Another agreement was concluded in February last On the whole it has to be admitted that the attempts of the Government to establish satisfactory trade relations with Pakistan have not met with any great success

CHAPTER XII

LABOUR

THE end of the war created many new problems for labour as war economy was switched on to normal peacetime production Labour watched with serious misgivings the inevitable shrinkage of industrial activities which made employers apprehend an impending slump and stiffen their attitude to its demands Retrenchment and rationalization followed and as a result workers organized themselves closely to fight off the menace of unemployment Needless to add the subversive elements made the most of this opportunity

The Government realized that not only the conflict should be removed but conditions must be created for maximum production efforts so that inflationary forces could be held in check

Accordingly it brought together the representatives of capital and labour in order to reach an industrial truce whereby the two arms of production could work together in a friendly and equitable atmosphere

The Government s statement on industrial policy made in Parliament on April 8 1948 recognizes the proper role of labour in industry and the need to

cure for labour fair wages and working conditions" it is urged that labour for its part must give equal recognition to its duty in contributing to the increase the national income without which a permanent rise in the standard of living cannot be achieved.

The Government was anxious to resolve the conflict between employers and workers by discussion without detriment to the rate or amount of production It set up a Central Advisory Council for Labour comprising representatives of the Government employers and workers This Council framed agreed proposals to ensure fair wages to workers A Fair Wages Bill based on these proposals is now under consideration by Parliament It lays down a minimum limit to wages while the maximum wages can be as high as the industry can afford partly subject to the productive capacity of labour

An important legislative measure taken by the Government for the benefit of labour was the Minimum Wages Act which received the assent of the Governor General in March 1948 It provides for the fixation of a minimum time rate and a minimum piece rate The deadline for fixing minimum rates for agricultural labour is December 31 1953 and for labour in other employment March 31 1952

The Government was responsible for three other important laws enacted in 1948 They are the Employees State Insurance Act the Factories Act and the Coal mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act In the same year the problems of forced labour and dock workers were also tackled

The Employees State Insurance Act is part of a comprehensive scheme of social security which the Government is contemplating The scheme will be

The Dock workers Act of 1949 is another impor- measure which entitles the Central Government frame schemes for the registration of dock workers in order to secure greater regularity of employment and better conditions of work for them A scheme already been introduced in Bombay providing for registration of workers their classification and the payment of guaranteed minimum wages attendance wages and appeals to an Appeal Tribunal by aggrieved parties

For the benefit of labour in general and of coal-miners in particular the Coal mines Labour Welfare Fund Act 1947 provides for a housing and a general welfare fund Pithead baths have been made compulsory and subsidies have been granted to owners for that purpose For women twenty two welfare centres have been opened At these centres le sons are given in knitting sewing spinning domestic economy cooking and nutrition Rules regarding the provision of creches in mines are being enforced

Medical facilities for miners include four regional hospitals in the Jharia and Raniganj area and a central ho pital at Dhanbad About 60 000 worker were treated annually in these hospitals and the facilities offered include anti T B anti venereal and anti malaria treatment Maternity benefit amounting to about Rs 100 000 are paid annually

A scheme for indu trial housing was formulated and communicated to tate governments for their consideration in April 1949 In Bombay 1 712 houses have already been built In Orissa 169 houses are likely to be constructed before the end of the current year It is hoped that Madhya Pradesh will have completed 400 hou es and Bihar eighty five in the same

period The scheme has now been extended to all the States

In addition 50 000 houses were to be built for colliery workers out of the Coal mines Labour Welfare Fund Of these more than 1 600 houses have been constructed but owing to the inadequacy of funds and increase in the cost of building material the scheme had to be given up in favour of a new plan envisaging subsidies to colliery owners up to 20 per cent of the cost of construction subject to the maximum of Rs 600 per house This scheme it is hoped will encourage the construction of a large number of houses

As no reliable data about agricultural labour were available the Government instituted an enquiry into their working conditions In 1949 a preliminary enquiry was carried out in twenty seven villages in various States and it is being followed up by a comparatively thorough investigation conducted in 812 villages all over India It is divided into three distinct stages general village survey general family survey and intensive family survey

The first two stages have already been gone through in all the States and the third in most of them The rest will have completed it by the end of August

Statistics collected from the general village survey have been processed and made available to the state governments On the basis of these data the Governments of the Punjab and Kutch have already fixed the minimum wages for agricultural workers

The whole enquiry is expected to be complete by February 1952 It is the intention of the Government to utilize the results not only for fixing minimum

wages but also regulating the hours of work planning rural housing and agricultural development

Plantation workers numbering as many as 1 150 000 received relief in the shape of increased interim dearness allowances and other benefits as a result of tripartite conferences called by the Government from time to time It is now agreed that every year employers should construct houses for at least 8 per cent of the plantation labour population It appears that more than 349 000 hou es are already in existence Members of the Indian Tea Association propose to build another 8 800 houses The Ministry of Labour has secured a sum of Rs 400 000 from the Central Tea Board for the welfare of labour employed by the tea industry The Plantation Labour Bill introduced in Parliament in June 1951 makes it obligatory for the employer to provide and maintain the housing necessary for every worker and his family residing on plantations

The Government has tried to strengthen the trade union movement and regulate it along healthy lines Under the old Act there was no provision for compulsory recognition of trade union by employers. There was no obligation on the part of the latter even to negotiate with trade unions This kept employers and employees apart and strikes were all too common Besides workers were exploited by outsiders who were actuated by political motives

The new Trade Union Bill introduced in Parliament in 1950 is calculated to remedy these defects The main provisions of the Bill relate to the recognition of trade unions, compulsory recognition of them on the fulfilment of certain conditions establishment of labour courts right of trade unions to negotiate

with employers and penalty for unfair practices on the part of either employers or trade unions

In an industrial dispute the Government seeks to conciliate instead of letting the two arms of production fight it out it provides suitable machinery for arbitration The Government has assumed this role as a result of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 which replaced an earlier one It provides a prompter and more effective method of resolving industrial disputes A number of whole time conciliation officers have been appointed in different parts of the country They keep in touch with employers and workers and assist them in the settlement of disputes by negotiation When negotiation and conciliation fail the dispute is referred to one of the standing industrial tribunals which have been established under the Act

The new Labour Relations Bill strikes a new note in labour management relations and provides for the prevention investigation and settlement of disputes It insists on negotiations at an early stage and simplifies the procedure for negotiations and collective bargaining It envisages three new authorities namely the Standing Conciliation Board the Labour Courts and the Appellate Tribunal and prohibits lightning strike while ensuring effective implementation of the awards of the tribunals

Regarding resettlement and employment in 1948 the Government threw open the doors of the Employment Exchanges to unemployed civilians as well as ex military personnel Quite a large number of people have found employment through the assistance of these exchanges In the three years preceding December 1950 as many as 3 147 640 people applied to the exchanges for assistance and 848 095 people were found jobs

The Ministry of Labour has drawn up a training scheme comprising sixty three centres where training is given in some sixty five vocational and technical trades. Though originally the centres were meant for ex-military personnel they are now open to civilians as well. The scheme provides for the training of 10,000 persons and 2,000 places are reserved for displaced persons. One thousand additional places were sanctioned for the training of apprentices in West Bengal.

So far the industrial truce has worked satisfactorily. Both workers and employers have responded to the Government's call for industrial peace and greater production. This is borne out by the figures for the number of labour disputes and loss of man-days during the past four years. Except for the general strike in the Bombay textile industry last year the progress has been uniformly satisfactory. India's record in this respect compares favourably with those of the UK and the USA. While in India the number of man days lost has decreased by about 52 per cent since 1947 there has been a decrease of only 13 per cent in the UK and an increase of 3 per cent in the USA during the same period. Again while the average duration of a strike was [illegible] days in India the figures for those two countries were 34.5 and 16.8 respectively.

One reason for this comparatively bright picture in India is that the worker has been encouraged to feel that his status is that of a partner in the industry and that he is no longer left to the mercy of his employer. The machinery created for conciliation and adjudication of disputes has secured to the worker higher emoluments and increased privilege. Moreover cases of non fulfilment of awards have been few. During 1948-49 out of the 1,250 industrial disputes referred to adjudication in the various States only fourteen

instances of non fulfilment of the award were reported Nor did the Government spare the offenders Thus it can be claimed that since 1948 labour has actively co-operated in the great national endeavour to produce more Even in that year there was an all round improvement in production This progress has been maintained and accelerated in subsequent years except as already mentioned in the textile industry

CHAPTER XIII

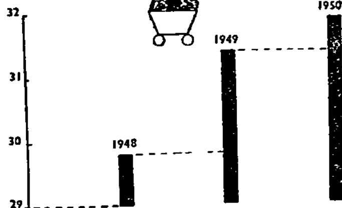
INDUSTPY

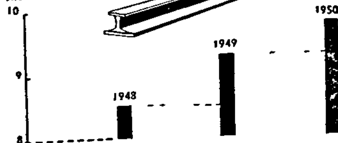
THE basic document of the Government s industrial policy is the statement of April 8 1948 to which we have already referred. It contemplates a mixed economy While private enterprise is allowed the Government undertakes responsibility for the development of those industries in which the stakes of the nation as a whole are too high to leave them in private hands Even among them the existing undertakings have been left to private enterprise In fact the Government renders financial assistance to some of these undertakings notably steel and shipbuilding

This policy has now been approved by the Planning Commission

In accordance with this policy the manufacture of arms and ammunition production and control of atomic energy and the ownership and management of railway transport are the exclusive monopoly of the Central Government Also new enterprises in industries like coal iron and steel shipbuilding telephone telegraphic and wireless apparatus (excluding radio receiving sets) and mineral oils can be undertaken by the State alone The existing units will remain with the present owners for a period of ten years at the end of which the industrial policy

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

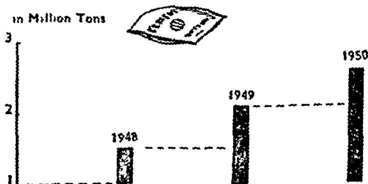




concerns were encouraged to develop their own schemes of expansion in one case the Government granted a loan for this purpose

The total production of cement during 1950 was 2 6 million tons—an increase of 5 million tons over the production of 1949 and 1 1 million tons over that of 1948 With increased production it was thus possible to export large quantities of cement The present output is considered adequate for all essential demand and the possibility of removing control on its distribution is now being examined

CEMENT



In the case of cotton textiles however the picture is not so satisfactory Improvement in yield which the year 1948 showed could not be maintained in 1949 and production fell in 1950 Besides the general shortage of cotton low production in 1950 can be attributed to the closure of certain mills which could not replace their old machinery to the uneconomic working of mills, and labour trouble The

Bombay strike of August October 1950 resulted in a total loss of eight million lbs of free yarn and 203 million yards of cloth

On account of the fall in the production of cloth and in order to maintain internal supplies at a reasonable rate the Government has fixed the export quota of coarse and medium cloth at 120 million yards for the current year both for hard and soft currency areas while the export of fine and superfine cloth and yarn of all counts has been totally banned

In the meantime the cotton development plan evolved by the Development Committee appointed by the Government which lays down norms of efficiency and targets for output has made some progress In accordance with this plan twenty mills with a total spindlage of 254 456 have already gone into production yielding about three million lbs of yarn per month while twenty four other mills with a spindlage of 230 000 are in course of construction They are expected to start production shortly and thereby increase the output by about 2 5 million lbs of yarn per month

Effective steps have been taken to step up the production of salt Small scale manufacturers have been allowed to produce salt without restrictions of storage transport and sale while the licensed producers have been encouraged to expand their factories

The paper industry also has shown steady progress The production figure rose from 98 600 tons in 1948 to 103 200 tons in 1949 while in 1950 production reached the record level of 108 907 tons A new mill with a capacity of 3 000 tons a year went into production in 1950

The production distribution price and consumption of paper were strictly controlled during the war and for some time after However steady increase in indigenous production and large imports in 1948-49 under the Open General Licence enabled the Government to lift all controls on paper

Newsprint however presented a different problem Owing to its scarcity all over the world and the need to conserve supplies the Government imposed control on it At the same time the Government has been making special efforts to increase supplies from abroad and helping in the establishment of India s first newsprint mill in Madhya Pradesh This mill with a production capacity of 30 000 tons a year is scheduled to start work in 1952

Production has been steadily rising in a number of engineering and non engineering industries like aluminium antimony bicycles caustic soda diesel engines electric lamps electric fans electric motors glass sheet paper board plywood power alcohol sewing machines sulphuric acid soda ash etc Indeed in spite of numerous difficulties peak production has been achieved in no less than thirty industries as a result of which the country has become self sufficient in respect of several commodities which formerly used to be imported Among them are dry batteries bare copper conductors refractories hair and cotton beltings abrasives motor car batteries white metal alloys conduit pipes hurricane lanterns dynamo grade electrical steel sheets brass and copper sheets for utensil purposes twist drills and reamers A number of commodities particularly those of chemical and pharmaceutical industries like glycerine bichromates magnesium chloride potassium bromide etc are now exported Indian manufactured drugs medicines and rubber goods are also on the export list

The fertilizer factory at Sindri is one of the greatest industrial undertakings of the Government The end of the year 1950 saw the completion of heavy constructional work and the installation of plant and machinery It is expected that usable ammonium sulphate will be available before the end of 1951 while full production will be achieved about six months later The power house of the factory with an installed capacity of 80 000 K W will supply not only power and steam for the process work of the factory but also bulk power to the extent of 20 000 K W to the Damodar Valley Corporation grid for distribution to industrial consumers in the neighbourhood

The Hindustan Aircraft Ltd in which the Government has the major interest made good progress in production and development

The factory s prototype of the primary trainer aircraft HT2 has taken shape and tests have been carried out to check the strength of its components Fifteen Prentice aircraft components and details of which were imported have been assembled Another fifteen for which parts have been manufactured at the factory are in various stages of production Satisfactory progress has also been made in the manufacture of fighter aircraft

Overhaul and repairs still constitute the bulk of the factory s activities During the financial year 1950 51 it was estimated that 140 major aircraft overhauls and 550 aero engine overhauls would be completed besides miscellaneous work on a large number of aircraft aero engines and overhaul accessories

An entirely new type of work was the building of all metal single and double decker bus bodies for the State transport authorities of West Bengal Delhi

and Bombay The first few bodies were built mainly from imported material but arrangements are being made for the manufacture of kits of indigenous material

The first order for a hundred rail coaches for the Ministry of Railways was executed by July 1950 and the delivery of forty four coaches of an improved type is expected shortly

During 1949 the production of scientific instruments increased by 27 per cent and sales by 11 5 per cent The next year production showed a further increase of 2 3 per cent The Mathematical Instrument Office was responsible for this achievement It has developed and manufactured among other important instruments profile projectors glass absorption cells special hydrometer sets special mercury thermometers and stainless steel mirrors and slits

The work of standardization undertaken by the Indian Standards Institution has also been progressing satisfactorily In 1950 800 subjects were accepted for standardization out of many more propo ed Of them 123 standards were published and another 108 finalized

The Cottage Industries Board was re constituted in July 1950 The Central Cottage Industries Emporium established in April 1949 procures cottage industry products from all parts of the country with the help of the state governments and private organizations It serves both as a sales depot and a publicity centre for cottage industry products Facilities for running cottage industries were given to a number of displaced persons who are now producing toys soaps hosiery textiles shoes buttons shoe laces etc During 1950 51 the activities of the Cottage Industries Board

were concentrated on the stimulation of export of cottage industry products

The Silk Board was constituted in May 1949 So far it has given Rs 181 000 in grants to ten state governments for specific schemes to develop seri culture An additional grant of Rs 68 000 was given to the State of Madras Mysore West Bengal and Assam for the establishment and development of cocoon markets It has been decided to send a batch of three officers to Japan for training in sericulture and the raw silk industry With a view to helping weavers the Government imported some 50 000 lbs of raw silk from Japan and supplied them to the various state governments for distribution among weavers

The Board has under consideration a number of schemes which include the cultivation of mulberry and production of mulberry raw silk in Orissa the addition of a sericulture section to the Research Institute at Chanapatna Mysore and the expansion of research on silkworm nutrition at the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore The question of enacting legislation prohi biting the use of unexamined seed that is mulberry silkworm egg is also under consideration

Mainly to help industries the Government is establishing a chain of national laboratories where research on the application of scientific knowledge to industrial progress is carried on Seven such labora tories have already been built and are functioning *namely the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona* the National Physical Laboratory in New Delhi the Fuel Research Institute at Digwadi the Central Glass and Ceramics Research Institute in Calcutta the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur the Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysore and the Central Drug Research Institute in

Lucknow Four others—the Central Road Research Institute in New Delhi the Central Building Research Institute at Roorkee the Central Leather Research Institute in Madras and the Electro Chemical Research Institute at Karaikudi—are yet to be started though nuclei units of these are already at work

The main burden of financing the construction and equipment of these laboratories has fallen on the Central Government though the state governments and industries have also contributed to the cost Eminent scientists and technologists have been put in charge of these national laboratories and the best available men have been chosen to help them

The post war period in which India regained her freedom was not ideal for industrial advancement On the other hand the poverty of the country cries out for rapid industrialization Of late the situation has been complicated by the scarcity of raw materials all over the world In spite of these and many other difficulties at home and abroad the Government can say today that as a result of its encouragement and support a good many industries show steadily increasing production

CHAPTER XIV

EDUCATION

EDUCATION and health in India in fact social welfare in general probably show the worst effects of alien rule The vast illiteracy—the accumulated re ult of many years of neglect—cannot be eradicated in the usual term of office held by a popular government Only generations of determined effort and heavy expenditure of money can put an end to this long standing evil The enormity of the task is truly dismaying However the Ministry of Education has made a beginning though it has been greatly handicapped by financial stringency Moreover educa tion is a state subject and the Central Ministry s function consists mainly in the co ordination and supervision of the work of the States

First of all a programme of basic and social education has been evolved and put into practice and it is hoped that it will shortly be in full swing But owing to financial stringency the modest sum of Rs 13 6 million earmarked for this purpose in the 1949 50 budget was afterwards reduced to Rs 7 5 million and further cut down to only Rs 1 42 million in the following year As a result though top priority was given to it the Centre s cheme of universal free and compulsory basic education could not make as much progres as desired In almost all the States

however basic education was begun on an experimental scale Some States made special grants for the establishment of basic schools and the training of basic teachers

The limitation of funds also compelled the Government to slow down the programme of basic and social education in the Centrally administered areas In 1948 a five year scheme for the introduction of free compulsory basic education in the rural areas of Delhi State was launched It was expected to cater for some 40 000 children of the age group 6 11 A similar five year scheme has recently been introduced in the rural areas of Ajmer

In both areas schemes for social education have been introduced with the object of reducing illiteracy by at least 50 per cent in the age group 12 to 45 within a period of five years Plans of compulsory free education are also in operation in various States

A University Education Commission appointed by the Central Government submitted its report in 1949 and those of its recommendations which do not entail heavy expenditure have been taken in hand for early execution A number of universities and other educational institutions received additional grants for specific purposes Rabindranath Tagore s Visva Bharati and Shrimati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey s Indian Women s University were accorded statutory recognition with substantial amounts of recurring and non-recurring grants to the former and non recurring grants to the latter Another important institution the Jamia Millia of Delhi has been receiving a recurring grant for the training of basic teachers

Within the limited funds the Government has undertaken to improve technical education in the country An important landmark is the establishment

of the Institute of Technology at Kharagpur in West Bengal The activities of the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore have been expanded by the addition of new research departments Besides the Delhi Polytechnic is maintained by the Central Government Special grants were also made to various engineering and technological institutions and oversea and other scholarships were awarded to promising scholars

India is one of the original members of UNESCO and Indian students have received a number of fellowship from it UNESCO has also given valuable assistance to the Government including the services of a consultant on adult education in executing its various projects A Pilot Library Project was planned in co-operation with UNESCO for which the latter loaned an expert librarian and provided a fellowship for training an Indian librarian The services of an expert psychologist were also made available to the Government for a research project on group tensions

The Government has entered into an agreement with UNESCO on technical assistance under which the latter will provide the services of ten specialists in the first year and technical and other equipment worth \$22 000 In addition fellowships of the value of \$22 000 will be available for training abroad

Two other activities of the Central Ministry of Education deserve mention the award of scholarships —to take effect shortly—for research in Indian arts and crafts and the arrangement for vocational education of the adult blind

In order to call attention to the problem of illiteracy in India the Government requested UNESCO to hold its first Asian Seminar on Rural Adult Education in India The Seminar was attended , educationists from many Asian countries

CHAPTER XV

HEALTH

LIKE education public health received little attention under the previous regime As a result the expectation of life in India is one of the lowest in the world Moreover during the past four years the problem of health has become largely dependent on the food position in the country Competing demands on the Government s limited re ources have also rendered it difficult to solve

Like education again medical relief and public health are state subjects though the Centre plays an important part in co-ordinating the health administra tion of the States Thus the States have been helped to evolve a uniform policy and establish minimum standards of efficiency in medical dental nursing and pharmaceutical professions on the one hand and in the manufacture and sale of drugs on the other The Centre also acts as a liaison between foreign countries and the States It collects statistical and other informa tion regarding health problems which are circulated by the Central Health Board to the state governments

The All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health the Malaria Institute the Central Research Institute the Serological Laboratory and the Central Drugs Laboratory are controlled by the Centre

Research in these institutions is directed by the Indian Council of Medical Research and other bodies A Central Health Service is being organized which will provide personnel for teaching and administrative posts at the Centre and in the States

In the Centrally administered areas of Delhi and Ajmer the Government provides facilities for training doctors and nurses In Delhi four of the largest hospitals have been expanded and a Tuberculosis Institute for teaching and research has been founded under the aegis of the University The Nursing College in the same city with a four year B Sc course was the first of its kind in the country It affords facilities for nursing education up to the university standard and provides a career for educated young women

A new scheme is being worked out in Delhi to provide more medical personnel and to reorganize the various sections of the hospitals

The necessary budget provision has been made this year to found a new infectious diseases hospital with a hundred beds at Kingsway

With the assistance of UNICEF an anti tuberculosis centre has been set up in New Delhi This centre will popularize modern methods for the prevention and treatment of T B and provide facilities for research on clinical and social problems connected with the disease

In accordance with the recommendations of the Health Survey and Development Committee two primary health centres are being built at N
and Narela These will serve as models for other
of the country

In the States the problem is mainly one of providing rural medical relief The state governments are therefore giving high priority to the schemes for the specialized training of medical personnel The Governments of Bombay West Bengal Uttar Pradesh Orissa Madhya Pradesh and Assam have already upgraded their medical schools increased the total number of places in medical colleges and introduced double shift teaching Special courses for the training of nurses have also been started

To the improvement of water supply in rural areas the state governments have been diverting a substantial portion of their resources The Madras Government for instance started a five year scheme costing Rs 25 6 million to provide safe water supply in rural areas For urban areas there is a scheme for a State water supply and sewage system in all towns with a population of 10 000 and over The Bombay Government hopes to spend Rs 18 6 million during the next five years on a water supply scheme for urban areas. In the course of the next fifteen years eighty seven of the smaller towns in Uttar Pradesh will have piped water supply and sewage systems The Public Health Engineering Branch of the Bihar Government is working out various schemes to improve water supply and sanitation In the next five years Madhya Pradesh will have 8 000 more wells in the villages while thirty two towns will have purer water supply and better sewage systems

Facilities for training and research have been afforded in the Delhi University which has already started a diploma course in tuberculosis An initial expenditure of Rs 1 350 000 and thereafter Rs 731 000 to be spent every year has been sanctioned for the Lady Hardinge Medical College in Delhi which trains women doctors. A grant of Rs 300 000 for a cancer

research and teaching centre has been made to the Tata Memorial Hospital Bombay and Rs 100 000 to the Delhi University for a ho tel for the staff and students of the T B Institute

Research work is also being done at the Central Research Institute Kasauli the All India Institute of Hygiene and Publ c Health Calcutta and the Malaria Institute Delhi The Nutrition Advisory Committee suggested measures necessary to improve the people s food habits and some of the States arranged for direct surveys

The Indian Council of Medical Research appointed a Therapeutic Trials Committee in 1948 to encourage re earch on medicinal agents either imported from abroad or manufactured in the country Therapeutic tests of the efficacy of sulpha drugs in cholera cases were carried out in Bengal and Bihar The efficacy of streptomycin for the treatment of T B and plague has also been tested The Indian Council of Medical Re earch encourages research in all the branche of medicine and its units are investigating on dropsy malaria leprosy and other epidemic diseases

To combat tuberculosis the Government of India in consultation with the World Health Organization and the United Nations International Children s Emergency Fund tarted a B C G vaccination cam paign in 1948 This has met with considerable success and B C G vaccines are being manufactured in this country UNICEF has helped India to et up three T B centres in Delhi Patna and Trivandrum These centres will train personnel for anti tuberculosis work and study the causes of the incidence and spread of the disease Six medical teams are now engaged in the work of mass vaccination in Madras Bombay Barod Hyderabad Travancore Mysore Assam Bihar a

West Bengal as well as in Uttar Pradesh Patiala and Rajkot In all ninety field teams have been trained and they are now operating in the country Up to the end of October 1950 2 25 million people had been tested and 750 000 vaccinated It is estimated that a hundred million people will have to be vaccinated and if about 80 per cent of this number can be covered within the next five years the incidence of tuberculosis will be considerably reduced India has asked WHO and UNICEF to give help in the form of field teams equipment and supplies

In 1948 India became a member of WHO and the Regional Bureau of the Organization for South East Asia was established in New Delhi WHO has helped in the campaigns against malaria tuberculosis and venereal diseases Malaria teams are working in the Terai in the Jeypore Hill tracts of Orissa the Malnad area of Mysore and Ernad in Malabar Once these areas are cleared of mosquitoes they can be reclaimed for cultivation

WHO and UNICEF have also offered to help the Government of India in setting up a penicillin factory at an estimated cost of twenty million rupees This factory is expected to produce 400 000 mega units of penicillin per month

The Government appointed committees to recommend the regulation and development of homeopathy and the indigenous systems of medicine A committee was also appointed to report on the establishment of a Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute Although a large number of doctors nurses dentists and nutritive workers are being trained in India more than 200 were sent abroad for training under the overseas scholarship scheme

CHAPTER XVI

TRANSPORT

At the end of the war in 194ᴊ the Indian railway system was not in fighting trim It had been heavily overworked in the service of war and very little had been spent on its maintenance Partition brought fresh problems thousands of Government employees and tons of equipment had to be rushed from one dominion to the other Soon afterwards million of refugees had to be transported acros the border to places of safety in India In addition to this food cloth and the barest essentials of life had to be despatched to the refugee camps which were dispersed all over the country In two and a half months three million refugees had travelled to India by rail A similar service in normal times would have entailed the use of at least 1 000 passenger trains At the best of times this would be a commendable achievement for any railway system in the world Moreover time was the essential factor in each case The Indian railways stood the strain and achieved the impossible at stupendous speed Understandablv enough this unforeseen demand for wagons and carriages necessitated drastic reduction in the goods and passenger services in the rest of the country

Among those in the services who opted for Pakistan were many engine drivers and fitters

the technical branches of the railways consequently became understaffed To train new men for these jobs was a task that took time and money but the railway administration filled the gap in a remarkably short space of time

Because of partition new railway lines had to be laid and some of the existing ones doubled For instance since Karachi was lost to India traffic to the North had to be routed *via* the port of Bombay This imposed additional strain on the existing lines far beyond what they were originally designed to bear To relieve the strain forty five miles of railway line on the Delhi Mathura section were doubled at an approximate cost of Rs 10 36 million Work was com pleted in record time and the line opened to goods traffic by 1949

Thanks to the advent of East Pakistan a direct rail link had to be provided between Assam and the rest of India The construction of the 142 mile link was a remarkable achievement Working in bad weather and in swampy and disease infested areas workers had to break through the course of wild rivers. This engineering feat was performed in less than two years and cost the Government Rs 140 million. The new line was opened to goods traffic on December 9 1949 and to passenger traffic on January 26 1950

Foodstuffs were decontrolled in December 1947 and then followed a spate of indents for railway wagons to move foodgrains Because of the free ope ration of the profit motive there was uneconomic movement of food sometimes even from deficit to surplus areas There was a consequent wastage of transport capacity which was badly needed for other essential industries like coal and iron The Central

Board of Transport therefore laid down definite plans to put the limited supply of wagons to proper use directed their movement and removed bottlenecks wherever they occurred Besides it was vital to the economy of the country that production targets in the essential industries should be fulfilled and their demands for transport met in full Then ensued a period of steady improvement in goods traffic when bottlenecks were eliminated one after the other There was no more need for the Priority Organization and it was therefore closed down

After independence the railway administrations launched a drive to promote greater operational efficiency and increase revenue from passenger and goods traffic This move produced striking results and in some cases the earnings exceeded those of the larger railway systems of pre partition days The improvement has since been maintained

During the war the railways were worked very much beyond their normal capacity the railway rolling stock was considerably depleted and nearly 30 per cent of the locomotives had outgrown their efficiency and needed to be repaired or replaced To tide over the immediate crisis the Government replenished their stock with imports The need for self sufficiency in essential supplies for this vital industry was however keenly felt by the Government A locomotive factory was therefore set up as a State enterprise at Chittaranjan in West Bengal The workshop is designed to produce 120 steam locomotives and fifty spare boilers annually It has already commenced production and by 1956 the workshop is expected to produce to its maximum capacity it will then be the largest manufacturing unit of its kind in Asia

Further third class passenger traffic has gone up by two and a half times since 1938 39 To relieve congestion 804 passenger coaches will be built in India during the present year The Hindustan Aircraft Ltd has already assembled a number of third class coaches equipped with electric fans and other modern amenities An agreement has been signed with a Swiss firm for the setting up of a coach building factory which will produce all metal light weight coaches of a new design It has been the declared aim of the Government to make third class journeys by rail more comfortable By the end of 1949 130 new trains had been introduced and ninety train services extended The Janata Express which is made up exclusively of third class bogies was introduced and overcrowding in other long distance mail and express trains was relieved by providing them with additional third class bogies It has been decided to spend Rs 150 million over a period of five years to provide increased amenities to third class passengers

All these improvements have meant increased working costs for the railways and railway fares had therefore to be increased This increase was however made progressive the incidence was greater on the higher class passengers it was heavier on long distance rather than on short distance traffic Freight rates were also rationalized and in response to popular demand a Railway Rates Tribunal was set up to settle disputes pertaining to freight rates

One of the most significant reforms in recent railway finance was the revision of the Railway Separation Convention adopted by Parliament in December 1949 It provides for a development fund which will be used to finance (a) increased passenger amenities (b) labour welfare (c) projects which are necessary but unremunerative at the time of construction The

existing Betterment Fund is to be merged with the new fund The Convention further stipulates that in the course of the next five years Rs 30 million of this fund should be spent annually on passenger amenities

Following the integration of the former princely states with the Indian Union their railway systems were also taken over The entire railway administration was constituted into six zonal divisions The SIR MSM and Mysore railway systems were all amalgamated

The relations between the railway administration and the staff have on the whole remained cordial and co operative throughout Representatives of labour were associated with the formulation of proposals for welfare work including hospitals canteens staff quarters etc

Following the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and the Adjudicator s Award the status of all railway labour of all categories was improved They were allowed several additional facilities such as higher scales of pay shorter hours of work liberalized leave rules and holiday concessions Besides the e the railway employees enjoy grain shop and medical relief concessions assistance for the education of their children etc During the current year a sum of about Rs 80 million is proposed to be pent on labour welfare

Last year a Joint Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the Railway Board and of railway labour and an independent chairman was set up to deal with the anomalies arising out of the Central Pay Commission s recommendations about railway staff The Committee has made a number of recommenda

tions most of which have been accepted and will cost the Government another Rs 20 million

The following remark of the Prime Minister sums up the work of the Indian railways adequately Whatever achievements or lack of achievements our Government may have to its credit or discredit I think I can say with full assurance that the improvement in the railway system in India is one of the outstanding achievements of the Government

Ton for ton mile for mile it is cheaper to transport goods by water than by rail The lack of speed can be more than made up by the great bulk that can be carried at a time Fewer men are required to handle the cargo than on the railways Capital and maintenance costs are less freight charges are about half to a third of the rates by rail

In India one of the factors impeding a higher rate of industrial development is insufficient transport the railways are by no means adequate for the country s requirements The length of waterways in India navigable by steamers and country craft is estimated at 4 000 miles Steamer traffic on the Ganga and Brahmaputra is already of the order of 625 million ton miles annually Today hardly a twelfth of the total merchandise flowing in and out of Calcutta is water borne and the savings that could be effected in time and money by diverting some of the goods traffic to the waterways would be significant During the last war the Buckingham Canal in Madras helped considerably to relieve the strain on the railways

Water transport in India was neglected in the past because it was a provincial subject Lack of unified policy and control and restrictions on inter state movements have impeded its growth The treat

ment of the river as a unit irrespective of political boundaries will help its rational development In the Republican Constitution inter state rivers and water ways have become a Central subject The planning and development of water transport has been entrusted to CWINC (the Central Water Power Irrigation and Navigation Commission) The several multi purpose projects that are now in progress will help to develop navigation in India Navigation is now difficult in several places because the dry weather discharges of the rivers are too little for use even by small country boats River conservancy measures under the multi purpose schemes will make it possible for navigation to become an important transport industry in India

Recognizing the importance of tourist traffic as a source of foreign exchange and al o as a medium of international understanding the Government of India has given it more attention of late The Tourist Traffic Branch of the Ministry of Transport has been consider ably expanded A number of regional tourist offices have been establi hed at Bombay Calcutta Delhi and Madras and liaison arrangements made with the Governments of Kashmir Orissa Hyderabad and Mysore The regional tourist officers besides assisting tourists and tourist agencies are also entrusted with the task of providing tourist amenities Special care is being taken about accommodation for tourists Complete information about hotels and hotel guides has been collected and released for distribution

Roads in important tourist centres are being improved The Automobile Association has been invited to help in the preparation of road maps and road charts Guide services are also being provided. Special arrangements have been made for *shikar* facilities The issue of a special tourist introduction card to every tourist has been arranged

COMMUNICATIONS

As in other spheres the public utility services received a setback during partition The Posts and Telegraphs Department however has not only recovered the lost ground but has been extending its activities ever since The number of post offices on March 31 1950 was 27 per cent more than in 1948 on the same date and the number of telephones increased by 22 per cent during the same period More post offices were opened in the rural areas and the aim of the Government is that to begin with every village with a population of 2 000 and over should have a post office After partition there were 4 837 such villages and by November 1950 2 791 of them had been provided with a post office each

Following upon federal financial integration the post and telegraph systems of the Part B and Part C States with the exception of Kashmir were taken over This has meant an additional burden on the department which has had to be reorganized on a considerable scale

To provide a long distance telephone service under varying climatic conditions has been the main problem of tele communication engineering in India The task has been satisfactorily achieved after con

siderable research and the improvization of new designs In this connection good work has been done by the Technical and Development Circle which handles the execution of all major telephone projects in the country

Partition caused a great dislocation in the country s tele communication system The construc tion of a communication line between Assam and the rest of India extending over 472 miles of exceedingly difficult terrain was completed within five months at a cost of over Rs 3 5 million

The most outstanding achievement of the postal department is however the introduction of the all up scheme from April 1 1949 Under this scheme all letters post cards and money orders are forwarded by air without extra charge This scheme has been made possible by the night air mail service The service operates on two routes across the length and breadth of the country from Bombay to Calcutta and Delhi to Madras with a central junction point at Nagpur The radio and navigational facilities on these routes have recently been developed up to the requisite safety level and the night service can now be operated even during the monsoon

As a meeting point of the air routes between the East and the West India occupies a strategic position in international aviation With its vast distances and good climatic conditions all the year round India pro vides an ideal field for air transport International air services to and across India are operated among others by the Trans World Airways Pan American Airways the B O A C the K L M the Air France and the Air India International

In recent years both passenger and freight traffic by air have increased phenomenally During 1947 the

Indian airlines carried 254 960 pas engers and transported 5 647 562 lbs of freight The corresponding figures for 1950 were 452 869 passengers and 80 006 755 lbs The night air mail service which has entailed the installation of additional radio and navigational facilities has become very popular During 1950 51 an average of 2 699 lbs of freight 6 771 lbs of mail and ninety one passengers were thus carried every night

The Government is encouraging Indian air lines and flying clubs by giving them financial assistance in the form of loans and grants For instance the Air India International Ltd was loaned a sum of Rs 1 9 million to cover its losses in 1948 and the Company was able to repay the loan in part in the following year The Bharat Airways has been granted a similar subsidy on account of its newly commenced Calcutta Bangkok Service The number of aerodromes in the country increased from forty eight in 1949 50 to seventy two in 1950 51 As in the case of the railways the advent of East Pakistan necessitated fresh arrangements to connect Assam with the rest of India A number of air strips were constructed at Tripura and several others are being built in Assam The Government is also fostering research in the science of aviation A training school for flying and an aerodrome school have been opened at Allahabad Also the Civil Aviation Training Centre in that city will soon start training ground engineers

A good meteorological service is indispensable for safety in air travel The Indian Meteorological Department has therefore a country wide network of observation centres for recording weather data a system of tele communication channels for publicizing weather information and a number of forecasting centres The Department also serves the railways shipping and agriculture

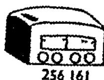
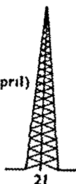
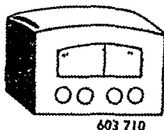
CHAPTER XVIII

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

IN 1948 All India Radio started the first phase of its Pilot Scheme to extend broadcasting facilities to all the important linguistic areas This stage was completed in May 1950 when Calicut the last station constructed under the scheme came on the air The AIR network now consists of twenty one broadcasting stations including the four which were taken over from the States The popularity of AIR is borne out by the growing listening habit The number of licensed radio sets increased from 256 161 in 1947 to 603 710 in April 1951 Apart from the increase in the number of domestic receivers the number of community sets in rural and industrial areas and in schools has also gone up The total number of community receivers at the end of 1950 was 4 988 On an average each community set serves a hundred listeners AIR has for a long time now been broadcasting special pro grammes for rural and industrial workers In the past the emphasis in the programmes was on education and news In view of the scarcity of food the emphasis is now laid on the food production drive and a special programme called farm forum has been started

Besides being a source of entertainment AIR pro grammes are also educative and cultural Through news bulletins discussions and talks the listeners are

GROWTH OF BROADCASTING

	Broadcasting stations	Receiving sets
1947	 6	 256 161
1951 (April)	 21	 603 710

given a critical appraisal of current world events opinions on books and modern social trends The music programmes aim at developing a taste for clas ical music among its listeners The stations in the South broadcast north Indian classical music and those in the North broadcast Carnatic music This helps to make Indians aware of their various musical traditions The Delhi station s programme The Music of India which presents outstanding arti tes from all parts of the country is now a regular feature and is relayed by other AIR stations

Radio reporting has now become a regular feature of AIR programmes Important events such as convocation mushairas kavi sammelans openings of exhibitions Independence Day celebrations etc are now covered by the radio

The two way radio discussion between Delhi and London was first tried out in the winter of 1949 50 The experiment was taken a step further in December 1950 when a four way discussion on the international situation between speakers in London Delhi Sydney and Montreal was recorded—a feat unique in the history of broadcasting

AIR broadcasts sixty nine news bulletins in twenty three languages fifteen Indian and eight foreign for about fourteen hours a day Broadcasts to listeners overseas are radiated in twelve languages including Burmese Indonesian Pushtu Cantonese and Persian for about twenty one hours every day

AIR has arranged for a limited number of records of the military band version of *Jana Gana Mana* to be pressed on permanent discs Copies of these were distributed to all stations and to diplomatic posts abroad in time for use on Republic Day last year

The Films Division has so far produced over eighty nine documentaries and 148 newsreels in five language versions English Hindi Bengali Tamil and Telugu They have been distributed through 136 circuits to cover 3 000 cinemas in the country The documentaries cover a wide range of subjects as is evident from the following titles Made from Mica Private Life of the Silk Worm Basic Education Rajasthan Series I Your Baby Cave Temples of India Subsidiary Food Santiniketan Story of Sindri Vale of Kashmir Three documentaries Private

Life of the Silk Worm Rajasthan Series I and Indian Minorities received awards at the International Film Festival at Yorkton Canada

There is an arrangement for exchange of newsreel items with foreign newsreel companies In this way important events in India are publicized in foreign countries and the Indian newsreel covers news from other countries The income from the rentals charged for films supplied to cinemas has steadily increased As against Rs 1 1 million in 1949 50 the income in 1950 51 is expected to be Rs 2 1 million

Through the free co operation of the press the Press Information Bureau informs the people of the activities of the Government of India and keeps the Government informed of trends in public opinion The Bureau also acts as a liaison between Indian and foreign press correspondents and the Government In 1950 51 it handled a record number of press enquiries and issued over 8 000 general press releases and 120 illustrated feature articles while photographic coverage was arranged for nearly 200 meetings and conferences The press releases of the Bureau in English and Indian languages are received by 1 866 newspapers To meet the special needs of the Indian language newspapers feature articles are issued in Hindi Urdu Bengali Gujerati Marathi and Tamil In addition a monthly review of the activities of the Government is circulated to Hindi newspapers Photographs are supplied to dailies and weeklies as well as two foreign agencies and fifty foreign publicity posts The photograph library of the Bureau has over 34 000 photographs classified and indexed under 300 headings

The Publications Division is responsible for the production sale and distribution of popular pamphlets

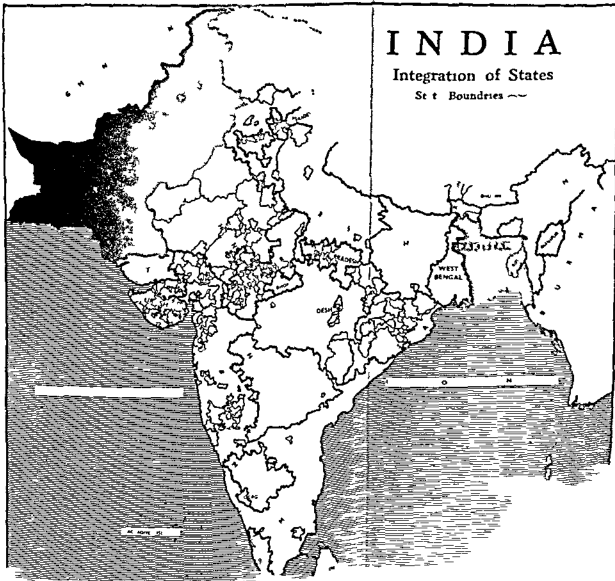
books magazines etc on matters of national import ance Since independence 172 pamphlets in various languages including English Hindi Urdu and Bengali have been issued by this Division It also publishes two magazines for external publicity *The March of India* for the English speaking countries and *Saut el Shark* for countries in the Middle East There are four internal publicity magazines the Hindi monthlies *Ajkal Vishwa Darshan* and the children s monthly *Bal Bharati* and the Urdu monthly *Ajkal*

The Advertising Branch is responsible for the production and release of all display advertisements of the Government of India except the Railways The media used are the press posters folders calendars blotters leaflets hoardings and cinema slides During 1950 51 the Branch launched publicity campaigns for Grow More Food Vana Mahotsava tourism National Savings the Territorial Army and Defence the Em ployment Services and health Posters folders and cinema slides have been used to publicize these campaigns

CHAPTER XIX

CONCLUSION

THIS is by no means a full account of the activities of the Government of India Its sole aim is to present a brief statement of facts indicating the pattern of progress and the shape of things as reflected in the activities of the Government in the past four years It is obvious that many important spheres of activity have been left out from this narrative as it is not possible to deal with all of them within the space at our disposal Nevertheless this short account should suffice to prove that however adverse the circumstances our leaders who form the Government and the men who have been helping them to run the administrative machinery have not been defeated or daunted by them On the contrary they have laid the foundations of a better order of society indicated new values initiated new policies and programmes put them into execution and achieved some encouraging results They are building brick by brick the destiny of an immeasurably great India They have aimed high as shown by the Constitution they have fashioned and in the light of their aims their achievements may tend to appear small Still it would argue uncommon courage on the part of anybody who could look at the new map of integrated India and say that it did not represent a magnificent achievement Even if this were the only thing the Government had done history


INDIA
Integration of States
St t Boundries
WEST BENGAL
DESH

IV

INDIA

Townships for Displaced Persons

(Sh w ng Popul t on T g t)

PAKISTAN

Ch d ga h 60 000

6 0 0 T p

R jp 15 000

10 000 N I kheri

H p 10 000

G dp 30 000

F d b d
40 000

G dh dh m 25 000

S d g 30 000

PAKISTAN

F I a
5 000

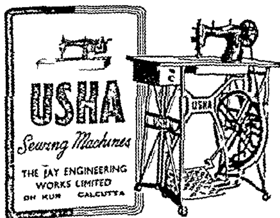
H b a
40 000

Ulh g r
1 30 000

ARABIAN SEA

BAY OF BENGAL

would not find it wanting Yet its record contains other achievements too as this narrative reveals The Government is bound to achieve still more with increasing confidence and the co operation of the people for in a co operative commonwealth and democracy like India it is not by orders of the few from above but by the comradely co operative activity of the many from below that the structure of greatness can and must be raised



USHA
Sewing Machines
THE JAY ENGINEERING
WORKS LIMITED
CALCUTTA
USHA

THE FREEDOM TO EARN A LIVELIHOOD







T t dem te ne live ih od gua nt d m licat on in th Con titution of Ind



S ce I dep de d p to Ap il 30 1951 10 51 077 pe on we plac d mpl yme t by th NATIO IAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE I th 5 h y a of f d m t pl dg a w t e ce to ll c tiz espect fc t c eed o to a d f of c tt

THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT JOB

